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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **ENVENTURE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY, LLC** [US/US]; 16200 A Park Row, Houston, TX 77084 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **BRISCO, David, Paul** [US/US]; 405 Westridge Drive, Duncan, OK 73533 (US). **WATSON, Brock, Wayne** [US/US]; 2535 Marsh Lane #1004, Carrollton, TX 75006 (US). **SHUSTER, Mark** [US/US]; 19115 Prospect Lane, Houston, TX 77094 (US). **GRAY, Malcolm** [US/US]; 1502 Wagon Gap Trail, Houston, TX 77010 (US). **GRINBERG, Grigoriy** [US/US]; 4758 Mount Airy, Sylvania, OH 43560 (US). **COSTA, Scott** [US/US]; 25614 Broadcast Court, Katy, TX 77494 (US). **WASSON, Russell** [US/US]; 2647 Highway J, Bourbon, MO 65441 (US).

(74) Agents: **MATTINGLY, Todd** et al.; Haynes And Boone LLP, 901 Main Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, TX 75202 (US).

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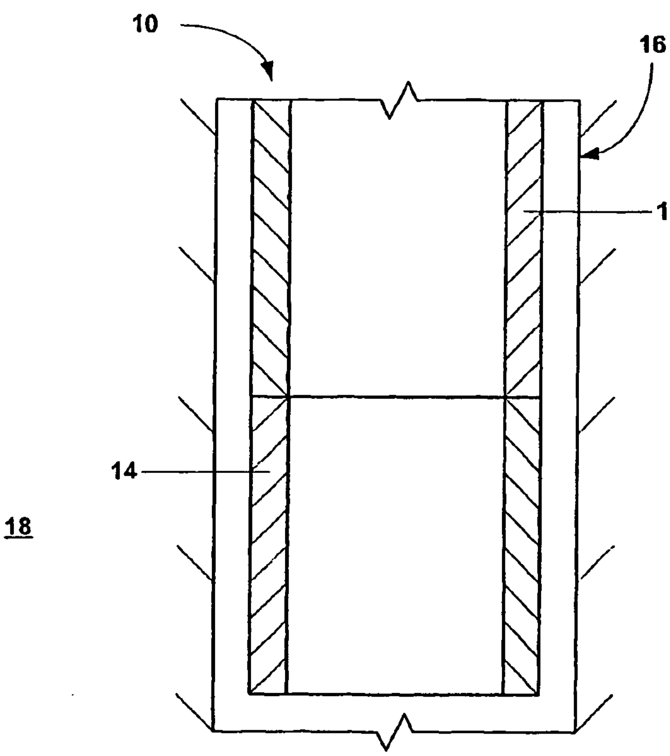

(57) Abstract: A radial expansion system.

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RADIAL EXPANSION SYSTEM

Cross Reference To Related Applications

[001] This application claims the benefit of the filing date of US provisional patent application serial number 60/600,679, attorney docket number 25791.194, filed on August 11, 2004, the disclosure which is incorporated herein by reference.

[002] This application is a continuation-in-part of one or more of the following: (1) PCT application US02/04353, filed on 2/14/02, attorney docket no. 25791.50.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/270,007, attorney docket no. 25791.50, filed on 2/20/2001; (2) PCT application US 03/00609, filed on 1/9/03, attorney docket no. 25791.71.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/357,372 , attorney docket no. 25791.71, filed on 2/15/02; and (3) U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/585,370, attorney docket number 25791.299, filed on 7/2/2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[003] This application is related to the following co-pending applications: (1) U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (2) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/510,913, attorney docket no. 25791.7.02, filed on 2/23/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,702, filed on 2/25/99, (3) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/502,350, attorney docket no. 25791.8.02, filed on 2/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/119,611, filed on 2/11/99, (4) U.S. patent no. 6,328,113, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/440,338, attorney docket number 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/99, which claims priority from provisional application 60/108,558, filed on 11/16/98, (5) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/169,434, attorney docket no. 25791.10.04, filed on 7/1/02, which claims priority from provisional application 60/183,546, filed on 2/18/00, (6) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (7) U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (8) U.S. patent number 6,575,240, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/511,941, attorney docket no. 25791.16.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,907, filed on 2/26/99, (9) U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (10) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/981,916, attorney docket no. 25791.18, filed on 10/18/01 as a continuation-in-part application of U.S.

patent no. 6,328,113, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/440,338, attorney docket number 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/99, which claims priority from provisional application 60/108,558, filed on 11/16/98, (11) U.S. patent number 6,604,763, which was filed as application serial no. 09/559,122, attorney docket no. 25791.23.02, filed on 4/26/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/131,106, filed on 4/26/99, (12) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/030,593, attorney docket no. 25791.25.08, filed on 1/8/02, which claims priority from provisional application 60/146,203, filed on 7/29/99, (13) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/143,039, attorney docket no. 25791.26, filed on 7/9/99, (14) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/111,982, attorney docket no. 25791.27.08, filed on 4/30/02, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/162,671, attorney docket no. 25791.27, filed on 11/1/1999, (15) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/154,047, attorney docket no. 25791.29, filed on 9/16/1999, (16) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/438,828, attorney docket no. 25791.31, filed on 1/9/03, (17) U.S. patent number 6,564,875, which was filed as application serial no. 09/679,907, attorney docket no. 25791.34.02, on 10/5/00, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,082, attorney docket no. 25791.34, filed on 10/12/1999, (18) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/089,419, filed on 3/27/02, attorney docket no. 25791.36.03, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,039, attorney docket no. 25791.36, filed on 10/12/1999, (19) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/679,906, filed on 10/5/00, attorney docket no. 25791.37.02, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,033, attorney docket no. 25791.37, filed on 10/12/1999, (20) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/303,992, filed on 11/22/02, attorney docket no. 25791.38.07, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/212,359, attorney docket no. 25791.38, filed on 6/19/2000, (21) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/165,228, attorney docket no. 25791.39, filed on 11/12/1999, (22) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/455,051, attorney docket no. 25791.40, filed on 3/14/03, (23) PCT application US02/2477, filed on 6/26/02, attorney docket no. 25791.44.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/303,711, attorney docket no. 25791.44, filed on 7/6/01, (24) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/311,412, filed on 12/12/02, attorney docket no. 25791.45.07, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/221,443, attorney docket no. 25791.45, filed on 7/28/2000, (25) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/, filed on 12/18/02, attorney docket no. 25791.46.07, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/221,645, attorney docket no. 25791.46, filed on 7/28/2000, (26) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/322,947, filed on 1/22/03, attorney docket no. 25791.47.03, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/233,638, attorney docket no. 25791.47, filed on 9/18/2000, (27) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/406,648, filed on

3/31/03, attorney docket no. 25791.48.06, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/237,334, attorney docket no. 25791.48, filed on 10/2/2000, (28) PCT application US02/04353, filed on 2/14/02, attorney docket no. 25791.50.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/270,007, attorney docket no. 25791.50, filed on 2/20/2001, (29) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/465,835, filed on 6/13/03, attorney docket no. 25791.51.06, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/262,434, attorney docket no. 25791.51, filed on 1/17/2001, (30) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/465,831, filed on 6/13/03, attorney docket no. 25791.52.06, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/259,486, attorney docket no. 25791.52, filed on 1/3/2001, (31) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/452,303, filed on 3/5/03, attorney docket no. 25791.53, (32) U.S. patent number 6,470,966, which was filed as patent application serial number 09/850,093, filed on 5/7/01, attorney docket no. 25791.55, as a divisional application of U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (33) U.S. patent number 6,561,227, which was filed as patent application serial number 09/852,026 , filed on 5/9/01, attorney docket no. 25791.56, as a divisional application of U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (34) U.S. patent application serial number 09/852,027, filed on 5/9/01, attorney docket no. 25791.57, as a divisional application of U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (35) PCT Application US02/25608, attorney docket no. 25791.58.02, filed on 8/13/02, which claims priority from provisional application 60/318,021, filed on 9/7/01, attorney docket no. 25791.58, (36) PCT Application US02/24399, attorney docket no. 25791.59.02, filed on 8/1/02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/313,453, attorney docket no. 25791.59, filed on 8/20/2001, (37) PCT Application US02/29856, attorney docket no. 25791.60.02, filed on 9/19/02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/326,886, attorney docket no. 25791.60, filed on 10/3/2001, (38) PCT Application US02/20256, attorney docket no. 25791.61.02, filed on 6/26/02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/303,740, attorney docket no. 25791.61, filed on 7/6/2001, (39) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/962,469, filed on 9/25/01, attorney docket no. 25791.62, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (40) U.S. patent application serial

no. 09/962,470, filed on 9/25/01, attorney docket no. 25791.63, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (41) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/962,471, filed on 9/25/01, attorney docket no. 25791.64, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (42) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/962,467, filed on 9/25/01, attorney docket no. 25791.65, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (43) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/962,468, filed on 9/25/01, attorney docket no. 25791.66, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (44) PCT application US 02/25727, filed on 8/14/02, attorney docket no. 25791.67.03, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/317,985, attorney docket no. 25791.67, filed on 9/6/2001, and U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/318,386, attorney docket no. 25791.67.02, filed on 9/10/2001, (45) PCT application US 02/39425, filed on 12/10/02, attorney docket no. 25791.68.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/343,674 , attorney docket no. 25791.68, filed on 12/27/2001, (46) U.S. utility patent application serial no. 09/969,922, attorney docket no. 25791.69, filed on 10/3/2001, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent no. 6,328,113, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/440,338, attorney docket number 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/99, which claims priority from provisional application 60/108,558, filed on 11/16/98, (47) U.S. utility patent application serial no. 10/516,467, attorney docket no. 25791.70, filed on 12/10/01, which is a continuation application of U.S. utility patent application serial no. 09/969,922, attorney docket no. 25791.69, filed on 10/3/2001, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent no. 6,328,113, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/440,338, attorney docket number 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/99, which claims priority from provisional application 60/108,558, filed on 11/16/98, (48) PCT application US 03/00609, filed on 1/9/03, attorney docket no. 25791.71.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/357,372 , attorney docket no. 25791.71, filed on 2/15/02, (49) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/074,703, attorney docket no. 25791.74, filed on 2/12/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (50) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/074,244, attorney docket no. 25791.75, filed on 2/12/02, which is a divisional of

U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (51) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/076,660, attorney docket no. 25791.76, filed on 2/15/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (52) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/076,661, attorney docket no. 25791.77, filed on 2/15/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (53) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/076,659, attorney docket no. 25791.78, filed on 2/15/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (54) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/078,928, attorney docket no. 25791.79, filed on 2/20/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (55) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/078,922, attorney docket no. 25791.80, filed on 2/20/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (56) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/078,921, attorney docket no. 25791.81, filed on 2/20/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (57) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/261,928, attorney docket no. 25791.82, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (58) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/079,276 , attorney docket no. 25791.83, filed on 2/20/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (59) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/262,009, attorney docket no. 25791.84, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which

claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (60) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/092,481, attorney docket no. 25791.85, filed on 3/7/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,568,471, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/121,841, filed on 2/26/99, (61) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/261,926, attorney docket no. 25791.86, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (62) PCT application US 02/36157, filed on 11/12/02, attorney docket no. 25791.87.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/338,996, attorney docket no. 25791.87, filed on 11/12/01, (63) PCT application US 02/36267, filed on 11/12/02, attorney docket no. 25791.88.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/339,013, attorney docket no. 25791.88, filed on 11/12/01, (64) PCT application US 03/11765, filed on 4/16/03, attorney docket no. 25791.89.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/383,917, attorney docket no. 25791.89, filed on 5/29/02, (65) PCT application US 03/15020, filed on 5/12/03, attorney docket no. 25791.90.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/391,703, attorney docket no. 25791.90, filed on 6/26/02, (66) PCT application US 02/39418, filed on 12/10/02, attorney docket no. 25791.92.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/346,309, attorney docket no. 25791.92, filed on 1/7/02, (67) PCT application US 03/06544, filed on 3/4/03, attorney docket no. 25791.93.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/372,048, attorney docket no. 25791.93, filed on 4/12/02, (68) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/331,718, attorney docket no. 25791.94, filed on 12/30/02, which is a divisional U.S. patent application serial no. 09/679,906, filed on 10/5/00, attorney docket no. 25791.37.02, which claims priority from provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,033, attorney docket no. 25791.37, filed on 10/12/1999, (69) PCT application US 03/04837, filed on 2/29/03, attorney docket no. 25791.95.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/363,829, attorney docket no. 25791.95, filed on 3/13/02, (70) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/261,927, attorney docket no. 25791.97, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (71) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/262,008, attorney docket no. 25791.98, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (72)

U.S. patent application serial no. 10/261,925, attorney docket no. 25791.99, filed on 10/1/02, which is a divisional of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (73) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/199,524, attorney docket no. 25791.100, filed on 7/19/02, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (74) PCT application US 03/10144, filed on 3/28/03, attorney docket no. 25791.101.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/372,632, attorney docket no. 25791.101, filed on 4/15/02, (75) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,542, attorney docket no. 25791.102, filed on 9/20/02, (76) PCT application US 03/14153, filed on 5/6/03, attorney docket no. 25791.104.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/380,147, attorney docket no. 25791.104, filed on 5/6/02, (77) PCT application US 03/19993, filed on 6/24/03, attorney docket no. 25791.106.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/397,284, attorney docket no. 25791.106, filed on 7/19/02, (78) PCT application US 03/13787, filed on 5/5/03, attorney docket no. 25791.107.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/387,486 , attorney docket no. 25791.107, filed on 6/10/02, (79) PCT application US 03/18530, filed on 6/11/03, attorney docket no. 25791.108.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/387,961, attorney docket no. 25791.108, filed on 6/12/02, (80) PCT application US 03/20694, filed on 7/1/03, attorney docket no. 25791.110.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/398,061, attorney docket no. 25791.110, filed on 7/24/02, (81) PCT application US 03/20870, filed on 7/2/03, attorney docket no. 25791.111.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/399,240, attorney docket no. 25791.111, filed on 7/29/02, (82) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,487, attorney docket no. 25791.112, filed on 9/20/02, (83) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,488, attorney docket no. 25791.114, filed on 9/20/02, (84) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/280,356, attorney docket no. 25791.115, filed on 10/25/02, which is a continuation of U.S. patent number 6,470,966, which was filed as patent application serial number 09/850,093, filed on 5/7/01, attorney docket no. 25791.55, as a divisional application of U.S. Patent Number 6,497,289, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, which claims priority from provisional application 60/111,293, filed on 12/7/98, (85) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,177, attorney docket no. 25791.117, filed on 9/20/02, (86) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,653, attorney docket no. 25791.118, filed on 9/20/02, (87) U.S.

provisional patent application serial no. 60/405,610, attorney docket no. 25791.119, filed on 8/23/02, (88) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/405,394, attorney docket no. 25791.120, filed on 8/23/02, (89) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,544, attorney docket no. 25791.121, filed on 9/20/02, (90) PCT application US 03/24779, filed on 8/8/03, attorney docket no. 25791.125.02, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/407,442, attorney docket no. 25791.125, filed on 8/30/02, (91) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/423,363, attorney docket no. 25791.126, filed on 12/10/02, (92) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,196, attorney docket no. 25791.127, filed on 9/20/02, (93) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,187, attorney docket no. 25791.128, filed on 9/20/02, (94) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/412,371, attorney docket no. 25791.129, filed on 9/20/02, (95) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/382,325, attorney docket no. 25791.145, filed on 3/5/03, which is a continuation of U.S. patent number 6,557,640, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/137,998, filed on 6/7/99, (96) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/624,842, attorney docket no. 25791.151, filed on 7/22/03, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/502,350, attorney docket no. 25791.8.02, filed on 2/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/119,611, filed on 2/11/99, (97) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/431,184, attorney docket no. 25791.157, filed on 12/5/02, (98) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/448,526, attorney docket no. 25791.185, filed on 2/18/03, (99) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/461,539, attorney docket no. 25791.186, filed on 4/9/03, (100) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/462,750, attorney docket no. 25791.193, filed on 4/14/03, (101) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/436,106, attorney docket no. 25791.200, filed on 12/23/02, (102) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/442,942, attorney docket no. 25791.213, filed on 1/27/03, (103) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/442,938, attorney docket no. 25791.225, filed on 1/27/03, (104) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/418,687, attorney docket no. 25791.228, filed on 4/18/03, (105) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/454,896, attorney docket no. 25791.236, filed on 3/14/03, (106) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/450,504, attorney docket no. 25791.238, filed on 2/26/03, (107) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/451,152, attorney docket no. 25791.239, filed on 3/9/03, (108) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/455,124, attorney docket no. 25791.241, filed on 3/17/03, (109) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/453,678, attorney docket no. 25791.253, filed on 3/11/03, (110) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/421,682, attorney docket no. 25791.256, filed on 4/23/03, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims

priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (111) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/457,965, attorney docket no. 25791.260, filed on 3/27/03, (112) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/455,718, attorney docket no. 25791.262, filed on 3/18/03, (113) U.S. patent number 6,550,821, which was filed as patent application serial no. 09/811,734, filed on 3/19/01, (114) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/436,467, attorney docket no. 25791.268, filed on 5/12/03, which is a continuation of U.S. patent number 6,604,763, which was filed as application serial no. 09/559,122, attorney docket no. 25791.23.02, filed on 4/26/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/131,106, filed on 4/26/99, (115) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/459,776, attorney docket no. 25791.270, filed on 4/2/03, (116) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/461,094, attorney docket no. 25791.272, filed on 4/8/03, (117) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/461,038, attorney docket no. 25791.273, filed on 4/7/03, (118) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/463,586, attorney docket no. 25791.277, filed on 4/17/03, (119) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/472,240, attorney docket no. 25791.286, filed on 5/20/03, (120) U.S. patent application serial no. 10/619,285, attorney docket no. 25791.292, filed on 7/14/03, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. utility patent application serial no. 09/969,922, attorney docket no. 25791.69, filed on 10/3/2001, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent no. 6,328,113, which was filed as U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/440,338, attorney docket number 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/99, which claims priority from provisional application 60/108,558, filed on 11/16/98, (121) U.S. utility patent application serial no. 10/418,688, attorney docket no. 25791.257, which was filed on 4/18/03, as a division of U.S. utility patent application serial no. 09/523,468, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, which claims priority from provisional application 60/124,042, filed on 3/11/99, (122) PCT patent application serial no. PCT/US04/06246, attorney docket no. 25791.238.02, filed on 2/26/2004, (123) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/08170, attorney docket number 25791.40.02, filed on 3/15/04, (124) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/08171, attorney docket number 25791.236.02, filed on 3/15/04, (125) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/08073, attorney docket number 25791.262.02, filed on 3/18/04, (126) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/07711, attorney docket number 25791.253.02, filed on 3/11/2004, (127) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/009434, attorney docket number 25791.260.02, filed on 3/26/2004, (128) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010317, attorney docket number 25791.270.02, filed on 4/2/2004, (129) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010712, attorney docket number 25791.272.02, filed on 4/6/2004, (130) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010762, attorney docket number 25791.273.02, filed on 4/6/2004, (131) PCT patent application serial number

PCT/2004/011973, attorney docket number 25791.277.02, filed on 4/15/2004, (132) U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/495,056, attorney docket number 25791.301, filed on 8/14/2003, and (133) U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/585,370, attorney docket number 25791.299, filed on 7/2/2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Background of the Invention

[004] This invention relates generally to oil and gas exploration, and in particular to forming and repairing wellbore casings to facilitate oil and gas exploration.

Summary Of The Invention

[005] According to one aspect of the present invention, a method of forming a tubular liner within a preexisting structure is provided that includes positioning a tubular assembly within the preexisting structure; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly within the preexisting structure, wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

[006] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided that includes a steel alloy including: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

[007] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided that includes a steel alloy including: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

[008] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided that includes a steel alloy including: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

[009] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided that includes a steel alloy including: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

[0010] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0011] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein a yield point of the expandable tubular member after a radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the expandable tubular member prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0012] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the anisotropy of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

[0013] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0014] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member after a radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the expandable tubular member prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0015] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the anisotropy of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

[0016] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the anisotropy of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

[0017] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the anisotropy of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

[0018] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the anisotropy of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

[0019] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the yield point of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

[0020] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the expandability coefficient of the expandable tubular member, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

[0021] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the expandability coefficient of the expandable tubular member is greater than the expandability coefficient of another portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0022] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the tubular member has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to

a radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0023] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular assembly including a first tubular member coupled to a second tubular member is provided that includes radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly within a preexisting structure; and using less power to radially expand each unit length of the first tubular member than to radially expand each unit length of the second tubular member.

[0024] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular assembly including a first tubular member coupled to a second tubular member is provided that includes means for radially expanding the tubular assembly within a preexisting structure; and means for using less power to radially expand each unit length of the first tubular member than required to radially expand each unit length of the second tubular member.

[0025] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of manufacturing a tubular member is provided that includes processing a tubular member until the tubular member is characterized by one or more intermediate characteristics; positioning the tubular member within a preexisting structure; and processing the tubular member within the preexisting structure until the tubular member is characterized one or more final characteristics.

[0026] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus is provided that includes an expandable tubular assembly; and an expansion device coupled to the expandable tubular assembly; wherein a predetermined portion of the expandable tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the expandable tubular assembly.

[0027] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein a yield point of the expandable tubular member after a radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 5.8 % greater than the yield point of the expandable tubular member prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0028] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of determining the expandability of a selected tubular member is provided that includes determining an anisotropy value for the selected tubular member, determining a strain hardening value for the selected tubular member; and multiplying the anisotropy value times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the selected tubular member.

[0029] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members is provided that includes selecting a tubular member; determining an anisotropy value for the selected tubular member; determining a strain hardening value for the selected tubular member; multiplying the anisotropy value

times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the selected tubular member; and if the anisotropy value is greater than 0.12, then radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member.

[0030] According to another aspect of the present invention, a radially expandable tubular member apparatus is provided that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; and a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

[0031] According to another aspect of the present invention, a radially expandable tubular member apparatus is provided that includes: a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; the sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent tubular member; and one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange; wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

[0032] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of joining radially expandable tubular members is provided that includes: providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

[0033] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of joining radially expandable tubular members is provided that includes providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange, one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint, wherein the flange is engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent one of the tubular members; wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

[0034] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular assembly is provided that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; a first threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members; a second threaded connection spaced apart from the first threaded connection for coupling another portion of the first and second tubular members; a tubular sleeve coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members; and a sealing element positioned between the first and second spaced apart threaded connections for sealing an interface between the first and second tubular member; wherein the sealing element is positioned within an annulus defined between the first and second tubular members; and wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the assembly, a predetermined portion of the assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

[0035] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of joining radially expandable tubular members is provided that includes: providing a first tubular member; providing a second tubular member; providing a sleeve; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members; threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location; threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location; sealing an interface between the first and second tubular members between the first and second locations using a compressible sealing element, wherein the first tubular member, second tubular member, sleeve, and the sealing element define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

[0036] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the carbon content of the tubular member is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the tubular member is less than 0.21.

[0037] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided, wherein the carbon content of the tubular member is greater than 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the tubular member is less than 0.36.

[0038] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of selecting tubular members for radial expansion and plastic deformation is provided that includes selecting a tubular member from a collection of tubular member; determining a carbon content of the selected tubular member; determining a carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member; and if the carbon content of the selected tubular member is less than or equal to 0.12 percent and the carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member is less than

0.21, then determining that the selected tubular member is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0039] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of selecting tubular members for radial expansion and plastic deformation is provided that includes selecting a tubular member from a collection of tubular member; determining a carbon content of the selected tubular member; determining a carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member; and if the carbon content of the selected tubular member is greater than 0.12 percent and the carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member is less than 0.36, then determining that the selected tubular member is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0040] According to another aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular member is provided that includes a tubular body; wherein a yield point of an inner tubular portion of the tubular body is less than a yield point of an outer tubular portion of the tubular body.

[0041] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of manufacturing an expandable tubular member has been provided that includes: providing a tubular member; heat treating the tubular member; and quenching the tubular member; wherein following the quenching, the tubular member comprises a microstructure comprising a hard phase structure and a soft phase structure.

[0042] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of radially expanding a tubular assembly is provided that includes radially expanding and plastically deforming a lower portion of the tubular assembly by pressurizing the interior of the lower portion of the tubular assembly; and then, radially expanding and plastically deforming the remaining portion of the tubular assembly by contacting the interior of the tubular assembly with an expansion device.

[0043] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for radially expanding a tubular assembly is provided that includes means for radially expanding and plastically deforming a lower portion of the tubular assembly by pressurizing the interior of the lower portion of the tubular assembly; and then, means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the remaining portion of the tubular assembly by contacting the interior of the tubular assembly with an expansion device.

[0044] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of repairing a tubular assembly is provided that includes positioning a tubular patch within the tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular patch into engagement with the tubular assembly by pressurizing the interior of the tubular patch.

[0045] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for repairing a tubular assembly is provided that includes means for positioning a tubular patch within the tubular

assembly; and means for radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular patch into engagement with the tubular assembly by pressurizing the interior of the tubular patch.

[0046] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes accumulating a supply of pressurized fluid; and controllably injecting the pressurized fluid into the interior of the tubular member.

[0047] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes means for accumulating a supply of pressurized fluid; and means for controllably injecting the pressurized fluid into the interior of the tubular member.

[0048] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes a fluid reservoir; a pump for pumping fluids out of the fluid reservoir; an accumulator for receiving and accumulating the fluids pumped from the reservoir; a flow control valve for controllably releasing the fluids accumulated within the reservoir; and an expansion element for engaging the interior of the tubular member to define a pressure chamber within the tubular member and receiving the released accumulated fluids into the pressure chamber.

[0049] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes an expandable tubular member; a locking device positioned within the expandable tubular member releasably coupled to the expandable tubular member; a tubular support member positioned within the expandable tubular member coupled to the locking device; and an adjustable expansion device positioned within the expandable tubular member coupled to the tubular support member; wherein at least a portion of the expandable tubular member has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0050] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes: an expandable tubular member; a locking device positioned within the expandable tubular member releasably coupled to the expandable tubular member; a tubular support member positioned within the expandable tubular member coupled to the locking device; an adjustable expansion device positioned within the expandable tubular member coupled to the tubular support member; means for transmitting torque between the expandable tubular member and the tubular support member; means for sealing the interface between the expandable tubular member and the tubular support member; another tubular support member received within the tubular support member releasably coupled to the expandable tubular member; means for transmitting torque between the expandable tubular member and the other tubular support member; means for transmitting torque between the other tubular support member and the tubular

support member; means for sealing the interface between the other tubular support member and the tubular support member; means for sealing the interface between the expandable tubular member and the tubular support member; means for sensing the operating pressure within the other tubular support member; means for pressurizing the interior of the other tubular support member; means for limiting axial displacement of the other tubular support member relative to the tubular support member; and a tubular liner coupled to an end of the expandable tubular member; wherein at least a portion of the expandable tubular member has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0051] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes positioning a tubular member and an adjustable expansion device within a preexisting structure; radially expanding and plastically deforming at least a portion of the tubular member by pressurizing an interior portion of the tubular member; increasing the size of the adjustable expansion device; and radially expanding and plastically deforming another portion of the tubular member by displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular member.

[0052] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes means for positioning a tubular member and an adjustable expansion device within a preexisting structure; means for radially expanding and plastically deforming at least a portion of the tubular member by pressurizing an interior portion of the tubular member; means for increasing the size of the adjustable expansion device; and means for radially expanding and plastically deforming another portion of the tubular member by displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular member.

[0053] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of radially expanding and plastically deforming an expandable tubular member is provided that includes limiting the amount of radial expansion of the expandable tubular member.

[0054] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes an expandable tubular member; an expansion device coupled to the expandable tubular member for radially expanding and plastically deforming the expandable tubular member; and an tubular expansion limiter coupled to the expandable tubular member for limiting the degree to which the expandable tubular member may be radially expanded and plastically deformed.

[0055] According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes: an expandable tubular member; an expansion device coupled to the expandable tubular member for radially expanding and plastically deforming the expandable tubular member; an tubular expansion limiter coupled

to the expandable tubular member for limiting the degree to which the expandable tubular member may be radially expanded and plastically deformed; a locking device positioned within the expandable tubular member releasably coupled to the expandable tubular member; a tubular support member positioned within the expandable tubular member coupled to the locking device and the expansion device; means for transmitting torque between the expandable tubular member and the tubular support member; means for sealing the interface between the expandable tubular member and the tubular support member; means for sensing the operating pressure within the tubular support member; and means for pressurizing the interior of the tubular support member; wherein at least a portion of the expandable tubular member has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

[0056] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes positioning a tubular member and an adjustable expansion device within a preexisting structure; radially expanding and plastically deforming at least a portion of the tubular member by pressurizing an interior portion of the tubular member; limiting the extent to which the portion of the tubular member is radially expanded and plastically deformed by pressurizing the interior of the tubular member; increasing the size of the adjustable expansion device; and radially expanding and plastically deforming another portion of the tubular member by displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular member.

[0057] According to another aspect of the present invention, a system for radially expanding a tubular member is provided that includes means for positioning a tubular member and an adjustable expansion device within a preexisting structure; means for radially expanding and plastically deforming at least a portion of the tubular member by pressurizing an interior portion of the tubular member; means for limiting the extent to which the portion of the tubular member is radially expanded and plastically deformed by pressurizing the interior of the tubular member; means for increasing the size of the adjustable expansion device; and means for radially expanding and plastically deforming another portion of the tubular member by displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular member.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0058] Fig. 1 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member positioned within a preexisting structure.

[0059] Fig. 2 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 1 after positioning an expansion device within the expandable tubular member.

[0060] Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 2 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially

expand and plastically deform a portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0061] Fig. 4 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 3 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform another portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0062] Fig. 5 is a graphical illustration of exemplary embodiments of the stress/strain curves for several portions of the expandable tubular member of Figs. 1-4.

[0063] Fig. 6 is a graphical illustration of the an exemplary embodiment of the yield strength vs. ductility curve for at least a portion of the expandable tubular member of Figs. 1-4.

[0064] Fig. 7 is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an embodiment of a series of overlapping expandable tubular members.

[0065] Fig. 8 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member positioned within a preexisting structure.

[0066] Fig. 9 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 8 after positioning an expansion device within the expandable tubular member.

[0067] Fig. 10 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 9 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform a portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0068] Fig. 11 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 10 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform another portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0069] Fig. 12 is a graphical illustration of exemplary embodiments of the stress/strain curves for several portions of the expandable tubular member of Figs. 8-11.

[0070] Fig. 13 is a graphical illustration of an exemplary embodiment of the yield strength vs. ductility curve for at least a portion of the expandable tubular member of Figs. 8-11.

[0071] Fig. 14 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member positioned within a preexisting structure.

[0072] Fig. 15 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 14 after positioning an expansion device within the expandable tubular member.

[0073] Fig. 16 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 15 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform a portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0074] Fig. 17 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expandable tubular member of Fig. 16 after operating the expansion device within the expandable tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform another portion of the expandable tubular member.

[0075] Fig. 18 is a flow chart illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a method of processing an expandable tubular member.

[0076] Fig. 19 is a graphical illustration of the an exemplary embodiment of the yield

strength vs. ductility curve for at least a portion of the expandable tubular member during the operation of the method of Fig. 18.

[0077] Fig. 20 is a graphical illustration of stress/strain curves for an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member.

[0078] Fig. 21 is a graphical illustration of stress/strain curves for an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member.

[0079] Fig. 22 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view illustrating an embodiment of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of the first tubular member, and a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member and engaged by a flange of the sleeve. The sleeve includes the flange at one end for increasing axial compression loading.

[0080] Fig. 23 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view illustrating an embodiment of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes flanges at opposite ends for increasing axial tension loading.

[0081] Fig. 24 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes flanges at opposite ends for increasing axial compression/tension loading.

[0082] Fig. 25 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes flanges at opposite ends having sacrificial material thereon.

[0083] Fig. 26 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes a thin walled cylinder of sacrificial material.

[0084] Fig. 27 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes a variable thickness along the length thereof.

[0085] Fig. 28 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of a portion of a first tubular member having an internally threaded connection at an end portion, a second tubular member having an externally threaded portion coupled to the internally threaded portion of the first tubular member, and an embodiment of a tubular sleeve supported by the end portion of both tubular members. The sleeve includes a member coiled onto grooves formed in the sleeve for varying the sleeve thickness.

[0086] Fig. 29 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable connection.

[0087] Figs. 30a-30c are fragmentary cross-sectional illustrations of exemplary embodiments of expandable connections.

[0088] Fig. 31 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable connection.

[0089] Figs. 32a and 32b are fragmentary cross-sectional illustrations of the formation of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable connection.

[0090] Fig. 33 is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable connection.

[0091] Figs. 34a, 34b and 34c are fragmentary cross-sectional illustrations of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable connection.

[0092] Fig. 35a is a fragmentary cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member.

[0093] Fig. 35b is a graphical illustration of an exemplary embodiment of the variation in the yield point for the expandable tubular member of Fig. 35a.

[0094] Fig. 36a is a flow chart illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a method for processing a tubular member.

[0095] Fig. 36b is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member prior to thermal processing.

[0096] Fig. 36c is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member after thermal processing.

[0097] Fig. 37a is a flow chart illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a method for processing a tubular member.

[0098] Fig. 37b is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member prior to thermal processing.

[0099] Fig. 37c is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member after thermal processing.

[00100] Fig. 38a is a flow chart illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a method for processing a tubular member.

[00101] Fig. 38b is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member prior to thermal processing.

[00102] Fig. 38c is an illustration of the microstructure of an exemplary embodiment of a tubular member after thermal processing.

[00103] Fig. 39a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of expandable tubular members positioned within a preexisting structure.

[00104] Fig. 39b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 39a after placing an adjustable expansion device and a hydroforming expansion device within the expandable tubular members.

[00105] Fig. 39c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 39b after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00106] Fig. 39d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 39c after operating the hydroforming expansion device to disengage from the expandable tubular members.

[00107] Fig. 39e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 39d after positioning the adjustable expansion device within the radially expanded portion of the expandable tubular members and then adjusting the size of the adjustable expansion device.

[00108] Fig. 39f is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 39e after operating the adjustable expansion device to radially expand another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00109] Fig. 40a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of expandable tubular members positioned within a preexisting structure.

[00110] Fig. 40b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40a after placing a hydroforming expansion device within a portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00111] Fig. 40c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40b after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00112] Fig. 40d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40c after placing the hydroforming expansion device within another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00113] Fig. 40e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40d after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00114] Fig. 40f is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40e after placing the hydroforming expansion device within another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00115] Fig. 40g is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 40f after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00116] Fig. 41a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of expandable tubular members positioned within a preexisting structure, wherein the bottom most tubular member includes a valveable passageway.

[00117] Fig. 41b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41a after placing a hydroforming expansion device within the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00118] Fig. 41c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41b after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00119] Fig. 41d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41c after disengaging hydroforming expansion device from the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00120] Fig. 41e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41d after positioning the adjustable expansion device within the radially expanded and plastically deformed portion of the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00121] Fig. 41f is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41e after operating the adjustable expansion device to engage the radially expanded and plastically deformed portion of the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00122] Fig. 41g is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41f after operating the adjustable expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform at least another portion of the expandable tubular members.

[00123] Fig. 41h is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41g after machining away the lower most portion of the lower most expandable tubular member.

[00124] Fig. 42a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of tubular members positioned within a preexisting structure, wherein one of the tubular members includes one or more radial passages.

[00125] Fig. 42b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the tubular members of Fig. 42a after placing a hydroforming casing patch device within the tubular member having the radial passages.

[00126] Fig. 42c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the tubular members of Fig. 42b after operating the hydroforming expansion device to radially expand and plastically deform a tubular casing patch into engagement with the tubular member having the radial passages.

[00127] Fig. 41d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41c after disengaging the hydroforming expansion device from the tubular member having the radial passages.

[00128] Fig. 41e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the expandable tubular members of Fig. 41d after removing the hydroforming expansion device from the tubular member having the radial passages.

[00129] Fig. 43 is a schematic illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a hydroforming expansion device.

[00130] Figs. 44a-44b are flow chart illustrations of an exemplary method of operating the hydroforming expansion device of Fig. 43.

[00131] Fig. 45a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a radial expansion system positioned within a cased section of a wellbore.

[00132] Fig. 45b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45a following the placement of a ball within the throat passage of the system.

[00133] Fig. 45c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45b during the injection of fluidic materials to burst the burst disc of the system.

[00134] Fig. 45d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45c during the continued injection of fluidic materials to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger.

[00135] Fig. 45e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45d during the continued injection of fluidic materials to adjust the size of the adjustable expansion device assembly.

[00136] Fig. 45f is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45e during the displacement of the adjustable expansion device assembly to radially expand another portion of the tubular liner hanger.

[00137] Fig. 45g is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 45f following the removal of the system from the wellbore.

[00138] Fig. 46a is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of an exemplary embodiment of a radial expansion system positioned within a cased section of a wellbore.

[00139] Fig. 46b is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 46a following the placement of a plug within the throat passage of the system.

[00140] Fig. 46c is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 46b during the injection of fluidic materials to burst the burst disc of the system.

[00141] Fig. 46d is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 46c during the continued injection of fluidic materials to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger.

[00142] Fig. 46e is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 46d during the continued injection of fluidic materials to adjust the size of the adjustable expansion device assembly.

[00143] Fig. 46f is a fragmentary cross sectional illustration of the system of Fig. 46e during the displacement of the adjustable expansion device assembly to radially expand another portion of the tubular liner hanger.

[00144] Fig. 46g is a top view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of an expansion limiter sleeve prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve.

[00145] Fig. 46h is a top view of a portion of the expansion limiter sleeve of Fig. 46g after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve.

[00146] Fig. 46i is a top view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of an expansion limiter sleeve prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve.

[00147] Fig. 46ia is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the expansion limiter sleeve of Fig. 46i.

[00148] Fig. 46j is a top view of a portion of the expansion limiter sleeve of Fig. 46i after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve.

[00149]

Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiments

[00150] Referring initially to Fig. 1, an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular assembly 10 includes a first expandable tubular member 12 coupled to a second expandable tubular member 14. In several exemplary embodiments, the ends of the first and second expandable tubular members, 12 and 14, are coupled using, for example, a conventional mechanical coupling, a welded connection, a brazed connection, a threaded connection, and/or an interference fit connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the first expandable tubular member 12 has a plastic yield point YP_1, and the second expandable tubular member 14 has a plastic yield point YP_2. In an exemplary embodiment, the

expandable tubular assembly 10 is positioned within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 16 that traverses a subterranean formation 18.

[00151] As illustrated in Fig. 2, an expansion device 20 may then be positioned within the second expandable tubular member 14. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 20 may include, for example, one or more of the following conventional expansion devices: a) an expansion cone; b) a rotary expansion device; c) a hydroforming expansion device; d) an impulsive force expansion device; d) any one of the expansion devices commercially available from, or disclosed in any of the published patent applications or issued patents, of Weatherford International, Baker Hughes, Halliburton Energy Services, Shell Oil Co., Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 20 is positioned within the second expandable tubular member 14 before, during, or after the placement of the expandable tubular assembly 10 within the preexisting structure 16.

[00152] As illustrated in Fig. 3, the expansion device 20 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 14 to form a bell-shaped section.

[00153] As illustrated in Fig. 4, the expansion device 20 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform the remaining portion of the second expandable tubular member 14 and at least a portion of the first expandable tubular member 12.

[00154] In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of at least a portion of at least one of the first and second expandable tubular members, 12 and 14, are radially expanded into intimate contact with the interior surface of the preexisting structure 16.

[00155] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 5, the plastic yield point YP_1 is greater than the plastic yield point YP_2. In this manner, in an exemplary embodiment, the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand the second expandable tubular member 14 is less than the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand the first expandable tubular member 12.

[00156] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 6, the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 have a ductility D_{PE} and a yield strength YS_{PE} prior to radial expansion and plastic deformation, and a ductility D_{AE} and a yield strength YS_{AE} after radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, D_{PE} is greater than D_{AE}, and YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}. In this manner, the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 are transformed during the radial expansion and plastic deformation process. Furthermore, in this manner, in an exemplary embodiment, the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand each unit length of the first and/or second expandable tubular members, 12 and 14, is reduced. Furthermore, because the YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}, the collapse

strength of the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 is increased after the radial expansion and plastic deformation process.

[00157] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 7, following the completion of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular assembly 10 described above with reference to Figs. 1-4, at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 14 has an inside diameter that is greater than at least the inside diameter of the first expandable tubular member 12. In this manner a bell-shaped section is formed using at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 14. Another expandable tubular assembly 22 that includes a first expandable tubular member 24 and a second expandable tubular member 26 may then be positioned in overlapping relation to the first expandable tubular assembly 10 and radially expanded and plastically deformed using the methods described above with reference to Figs. 1-4. Furthermore, following the completion of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular assembly 20, in an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 26 has an inside diameter that is greater than at least the inside diameter of the first expandable tubular member 24. In this manner a bell-shaped section is formed using at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 26. Furthermore, in this manner, a mono-diameter tubular assembly is formed that defines an internal passage 28 having a substantially constant cross-sectional area and/or inside diameter.

[00158] Referring to Fig. 8, an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular assembly 100 includes a first expandable tubular member 102 coupled to a tubular coupling 104. The tubular coupling 104 is coupled to a tubular coupling 106. The tubular coupling 106 is coupled to a second expandable tubular member 108. In several exemplary embodiments, the tubular couplings, 104 and 106, provide a tubular coupling assembly for coupling the first and second expandable tubular members, 102 and 108, together that may include, for example, a conventional mechanical coupling, a welded connection, a brazed connection, a threaded connection, and/or an interference fit connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the first and second expandable tubular members 12 have a plastic yield point YP_1, and the tubular couplings, 104 and 106, have a plastic yield point YP_2. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular assembly 100 is positioned within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 110 that traverses a subterranean formation 112.

[00159] As illustrated in Fig. 9, an expansion device 114 may then be positioned within the second expandable tubular member 108. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 114 may include, for example, one or more of the following conventional expansion devices: a) an expansion cone; b) a rotary expansion device; c) a hydroforming expansion device; d) an impulsive force expansion device; d) any one of the expansion devices commercially available from, or disclosed in any of the published patent applications

or issued patents, of Weatherford International, Baker Hughes, Halliburton Energy Services, Shell Oil Co., Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 114 is positioned within the second expandable tubular member 108 before, during, or after the placement of the expandable tubular assembly 100 within the preexisting structure 110.

[00160] As illustrated in Fig. 10, the expansion device 114 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 108 to form a bell-shaped section.

[00161] As illustrated in Fig. 11, the expansion device 114 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform the remaining portion of the second expandable tubular member 108, the tubular couplings, 104 and 106, and at least a portion of the first expandable tubular member 102.

[00162] In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of at least a portion of at least one of the first and second expandable tubular members, 102 and 108, are radially expanded into intimate contact with the interior surface of the preexisting structure 110.

[00163] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 12, the plastic yield point YP_1 is less than the plastic yield point YP_2. In this manner, in an exemplary embodiment, the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand each unit length of the first and second expandable tubular members, 102 and 108, is less than the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand each unit length of the tubular couplings, 104 and 106.

[00164] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 13, the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 have a ductility D_{PE} and a yield strength YS_{PE} prior to radial expansion and plastic deformation, and a ductility D_{AE} and a yield strength YS_{AE} after radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, D_{PE} is greater than D_{AE}, and YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}. In this manner, the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 are transformed during the radial expansion and plastic deformation process. Furthermore, in this manner, in an exemplary embodiment, the amount of power and/or energy required to radially expand each unit length of the first and/or second expandable tubular members, 12 and 14, is reduced. Furthermore, because the YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}, the collapse strength of the first expandable tubular member 12 and/or the second expandable tubular member 14 is increased after the radial expansion and plastic deformation process.

[00165] Referring to Fig. 14, an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular assembly 200 includes a first expandable tubular member 202 coupled to a second expandable tubular member 204 that defines radial openings 204a, 204b, 204c, and 204d. In several exemplary embodiments, the ends of the first and second expandable tubular members, 202 and 204, are coupled using, for example, a conventional mechanical

coupling, a welded connection, a brazed connection, a threaded connection, and/or an interference fit connection. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the radial openings, 204a, 204b, 204c, and 204d, have circular, oval, square, and/or irregular cross sections and/or include portions that extend to and interrupt either end of the second expandable tubular member 204. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular assembly 200 is positioned within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 206 that traverses a subterranean formation 208.

[00166] As illustrated in Fig. 15, an expansion device 210 may then be positioned within the second expandable tubular member 204. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 210 may include, for example, one or more of the following conventional expansion devices: a) an expansion cone; b) a rotary expansion device; c) a hydroforming expansion device; d) an impulsive force expansion device; d) any one of the expansion devices commercially available from, or disclosed in any of the published patent applications or issued patents, of Weatherford International, Baker Hughes, Halliburton Energy Services, Shell Oil Co., Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. In several exemplary embodiments, the expansion device 210 is positioned within the second expandable tubular member 204 before, during, or after the placement of the expandable tubular assembly 200 within the preexisting structure 206.

[00167] As illustrated in Fig. 16, the expansion device 210 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform at least a portion of the second expandable tubular member 204 to form a bell-shaped section.

[00168] As illustrated in Fig. 16, the expansion device 20 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform the remaining portion of the second expandable tubular member 204 and at least a portion of the first expandable tubular member 202.

[00169] In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy ratio AR for the first and second expandable tubular members is defined by the following equation:

$AR = \ln (WT_f/WT_o)/\ln (D_f/D_o)$;

where AR = anisotropy ratio;

where WT_f = final wall thickness of the expandable tubular member following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member;

where WT_i = initial wall thickness of the expandable tubular member prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member;

where D_f = final inside diameter of the expandable tubular member following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member; and

where D_i = initial inside diameter of the expandable tubular member prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member.

[00170] In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy ratio AR for the first and/or second

expandable tubular members, 204 and 204, is greater than 1.

[00171] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, the second expandable tubular member 204 had an anisotropy ratio AR greater than 1, and the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the second expandable tubular member did not result in any of the openings, 204a, 204b, 204c, and 204d, splitting or otherwise fracturing the remaining portions of the second expandable tubular member. This was an unexpected result.

[00172] Referring to Fig. 18, in an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 are processed using a method 300 in which a tubular member in an initial state is thermo-mechanically processed in step 302. In an exemplary embodiment, the thermo-mechanical processing 302 includes one or more heat treating and/or mechanical forming processes. As a result, of the thermo-mechanical processing 302, the tubular member is transformed to an intermediate state. The tubular member is then further thermo-mechanically processed in step 304. In an exemplary embodiment, the thermo-mechanical processing 304 includes one or more heat treating and/or mechanical forming processes. As a result, of the thermo-mechanical processing 304, the tubular member is transformed to a final state.

[00173] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 19, during the operation of the method 300, the tubular member has a ductility D_{PE} and a yield strength YS_{PE} prior to the final thermo-mechanical processing in step 304, and a ductility D_{AE} and a yield strength YS_{AE} after final thermo-mechanical processing. In an exemplary embodiment, D_{PE} is greater than D_{AE}, and YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}. In this manner, the amount of energy and/or power required to transform the tubular member, using mechanical forming processes, during the final thermo-mechanical processing in step 304 is reduced. Furthermore, in this manner, because the YS_{AE} is greater than YS_{PE}, the collapse strength of the tubular member is increased after the final thermo-mechanical processing in step 304.

[00174] In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204, have the following characteristics:

Characteristic	Value
Tensile Strength	60 to 120 ksi
Yield Strength	50 to 100 ksi
Y/T Ratio	Maximum of 50/85 %
Elongation During Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation	Minimum of 35 %

Characteristic	Value
Width Reduction During Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation	Minimum of 40 %
Wall Thickness Reduction During Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation	Minimum of 30 %
Anisotropy	Minimum of 1.5
Minimum Absorbed Energy at -4 F (-20 C) in the Longitudinal Direction	80 ft-lb
Minimum Absorbed Energy at -4 F (-20 C) in the Transverse Direction	60 ft-lb
Minimum Absorbed Energy at -4 F (-20 C) Transverse To A Weld Area	60 ft-lb
Flare Expansion Testing	Minimum of 75% Without A Failure
Increase in Yield Strength Due To Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation	Greater than 5.4 %

[00175] In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204, are characterized by an expandability coefficient f:

i. f = r X n

ii. where f = expandability coefficient;

1. r = anisotropy coefficient; and
2. n = strain hardening exponent.

[00176] In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy coefficient for one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient for one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 is greater than 0.12.

[00177] In an exemplary embodiment, a tubular member having a higher expandability coefficient requires less power and/or energy to radially expand and plastically deform each

unit length than a tubular member having a lower expandability coefficient. In an exemplary embodiment, a tubular member having a higher expandability coefficient requires less power and/or energy per unit length to radially expand and plastically deform than a tubular member having a lower expandability coefficient.

[00178] In several exemplary experimental embodiments, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204, are steel alloys having one of the following compositions:

	Element and Percentage By Weight							
Steel Alloy	**C**	**Mn**	**P**	**S**	**Si**	**Cu**	**Ni**	**Cr**
A	0.065	1.44	0.01	0.002	0.24	0.01	0.01	0.02
B	0.18	1.28	0.017	0.004	0.29	0.01	0.01	0.03
C	0.08	0.82	0.006	0.003	0.30	0.16	0.05	0.05
D	0.02	1.31	0.02	0.001	0.45	-	9.1	18.7

[00179] In exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 20, a sample of an expandable tubular member composed of Alloy A exhibited a yield point before radial expansion and plastic deformation YP_{BE}, a yield point after radial expansion and plastic deformation of about 16 % $YP_{AE16\%}$, and a yield point after radial expansion and plastic deformation of about 24 % $YP_{AE24\%}$. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, $YP_{AE24\%} > YP_{AE16\%} > YP_{BE}$. Furthermore, in an exemplary experimental embodiment, the ductility of the sample of the expandable tubular member composed of Alloy A also exhibited a higher ductility prior to radial expansion and plastic deformation than after radial expansion and plastic deformation. These were unexpected results.

[00180] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, a sample of an expandable tubular member composed of Alloy A exhibited the following tensile characteristics before and after radial expansion and plastic deformation:

	Yield Point ksi	**Yield Ratio**	**Elongation %**	**Width Reduction %**	**Wall Thickness Reduction %**	**Anisotropy**
Before Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation	46.9	0.69	53	-52	55	0.93

	Yield Point ksi	Yield Ratio	Elongation %	Width Reduction %	Wall Thickness Reduction %	Anisotropy
After 16% Radial Expansion	65.9	0.83	17	42	51	0.78
After 24% Radial Expansion	68.5	0.83	5	44	54	0.76
% Increase	40% for 16% radial expansion 46% for 24% radial expansion					

[00181] In exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 21, a sample of an expandable tubular member composed of Alloy B exhibited a yield point before radial expansion and plastic deformation YP_{BE}, a yield point after radial expansion and plastic deformation of about 16 % $YP_{AE16\%}$, and a yield point after radial expansion and plastic deformation of about 24 % $YP_{AE24\%}$. In an exemplary embodiment, $YP_{AE24\%} > YP_{AE16\%} > YP_{BE}$. Furthermore, in an exemplary experimental embodiment, the ductility of the sample of the expandable tubular member composed of Alloy B also exhibited a higher ductility prior to radial expansion and plastic deformation than after radial expansion and plastic deformation. These were unexpected results.

[00182] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, a sample of an expandable tubular member composed of Alloy B exhibited the following tensile characteristics before and after radial expansion and plastic deformation:

	Yield Point ksi	Yield Ratio	Elongation %	Width Reduction %	Wall Thickness Reduction %	Anisotropy
Before	57.8	0.71	44	43	46	0.93

	Yield Point ksi	Yield Ratio	Elongation %	Width Reduction %	Wall Thickness Reduction %	Anisotropy
Radial Expansion and Plastic Deformation						
After 16% Radial Expansion	74.4	0.84	16	38	42	0.87
After 24% Radial Expansion	79.8	0.86	20	36	42	0.81
% Increase	28.7% increase for 16% radial expansion 38% increase for 24% radial expansion					

[00183] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, samples of expandable tubulars composed of Alloys A, B, C, and D exhibited the following tensile characteristics prior to radial expansion and plastic deformation:

Steel Alloy	Yield ksi	Yield Ratio	Elongation %	Anisotropy	Absorbed Energy ft-lb	Expandability Coefficient
A	47.6	0.71	44	1.48	145	
B	57.8	0.71	44	1.04	62.2	
C	61.7	0.80	39	1.92	268	
D	48	0.55	56	1.34	-	

[00184] In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 have a strain hardening exponent greater than 0.12, and a yield ratio is less than 0.85.

[00185] In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon equivalent C_e, for tubular members having a carbon content (by weight percentage) less than or equal to 0.12%, is given by the following expression:

$$C_e = C + Mn/6 + (Cr + Mo + V + Ti + Nb)/5 + (Ni + Cu)/15$$

where C_e = carbon equivalent value;

a. C = carbon percentage by weight;
b. Mn = manganese percentage by weight;
c. Cr = chromium percentage by weight;
d. Mo = molybdenum percentage by weight;
e. V = vanadium percentage by weight;
f. Ti = titanium percentage by weight;
g. Nb = niobium percentage by weight;
h. Ni = nickel percentage by weight; and
i. Cu = copper percentage by weight.

[00186] In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon equivalent value C_e, for tubular members having a carbon content less than or equal to 0.12% (by weight), for one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 is less than 0.21.

[00187] In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon equivalent C_e, for tubular members having more than 0.12% carbon content (by weight), is given by the following expression:

$$C_e = C + Si/30 + (Mn + Cu + Cr)/20 + Ni/60 + Mo/15 + V/10 + 5*B$$

where C_e = carbon equivalent value;

a. C = carbon percentage by weight;
b. Si = silicon percentage by weight;
c. Mn = manganese percentage by weight;
d. Cu = copper percentage by weight;
e. Cr = chromium percentage by weight;
f. Ni = nickel percentage by weight;
g. Mo = molybdenum percentage by weight;
h. V = vanadium percentage by weight; and
i. B = boron percentage by weight.

[00188] In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon equivalent value C_e, for tubular members having greater than 0.12% carbon content (by weight), for one or more of the

expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 is less than 0.36.

[00189] Referring to Fig. 22 in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2210 includes an internally threaded connection 2212 at an end portion 2214. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2216 that includes an internal flange 2218 having a tapered portion 2220, and a second end that includes a tapered portion 2222, is then mounted upon and receives the end portion 2214 of the first tubular member 2210. In an exemplary embodiment, the end portion 2214 of the first tubular member 2210 abuts one side of the internal flange 2218 of the tubular sleeve 2216, and the internal diameter of the internal flange 2218 of the tubular sleeve 2216 is substantially equal to or greater than the maximum internal diameter of the internally threaded connection 2212 of the end portion 2214 of the first tubular member 2210. An externally threaded connection 2224 of an end portion 2226 of a second tubular member 2228 having an annular recess 2230 is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2216 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2212 of the end portion 2214 of the first tubular member 2210. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal flange 2218 of the tubular sleeve 2216 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2230 of the end portion 2226 of the second tubular member 2228. Thus, the tubular sleeve 2216 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228.

[00190] The internally threaded connection 2212 of the end portion 2214 of the first tubular member 2210 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2224 of the end portion 2226 of the second tubular member 2228 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2216 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00191] As illustrated in Fig. 22, the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, and the tubular sleeve 2216 may be positioned within another structure 2232 such as, for example, a cased or uncased wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating a conventional expansion device 2234 within and/or through the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions, 2220 and 2222, of the tubular sleeve 2216 facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 2232, and the movement of the expansion device 2234 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, may be, for example, from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00192] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second

tubular members, 2210 and 2228, the tubular sleeve 2216 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. As a result, the tubular sleeve 2216 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00193] Sleeve 2216 increases the axial compression loading of the connection between tubular members 2210 and 2228 before and after expansion by the expansion device 2234. Sleeve 2216 may, for example, be secured to tubular members 2210 and 2228 by a heat shrink fit.

[00194] In several alternative embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, are radially expanded and plastically deformed using other conventional methods for radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members such as, for example, internal pressurization, hydroforming, and/or roller expansion devices and/or any one or combination of the conventional commercially available expansion products and services available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C.

[00195] The use of the tubular sleeve 2216 during (a) the coupling of the first tubular member 2210 to the second tubular member 2228, (b) the placement of the first and second tubular members in the structure 2232, and (c) the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members provides a number of significant benefits. For example, the tubular sleeve 2216 protects the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, during handling and insertion of the tubular members within the structure 2232. In this manner, damage to the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, is avoided that could otherwise result in stress concentrations that could cause a catastrophic failure during subsequent radial expansion operations. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 2216 provides an alignment guide that facilitates the insertion and threaded coupling of the second tubular member 2228 to the first tubular member 2210. In this manner, misalignment that could result in damage to the threaded connections, 2212 and 2224, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, may be avoided. In addition, during the relative rotation of the second tubular member with respect to the first tubular member, required during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members, the tubular sleeve 2216 provides an indication of to what degree the first and second tubular members are threadably coupled. For example, if the tubular sleeve 2216 can be easily rotated, that would indicate that the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, are not fully threadably coupled and in intimate contact with the internal flange 2218 of the tubular sleeve. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 2216 may prevent crack propagation during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first

and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228. In this manner, failure modes such as, for example, longitudinal cracks in the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members may be limited in severity or eliminated all together. In addition, after completing the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, the tubular sleeve 2216 may provide a fluid tight metal-to-metal seal between interior surface of the tubular sleeve 2216 and the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members. In this manner, fluidic materials are prevented from passing through the threaded connections, 2212 and 2224, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, into the annulus between the first and second tubular members and the structure 2232. Furthermore, because, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, the tubular sleeve 2216 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 2214 and 2226, of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, may be maintained in circumferential compression, axial loads and/or torque loads may be transmitted through the tubular sleeve.

[00196] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2210 and 2228, and the tubular sleeve 2216 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00197] Referring to Fig. 23, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 210 includes an internally threaded connection 2312 at an end portion 2314. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2316 includes an internal flange 2318 and a tapered portion 2320. A second end of the sleeve 2316 includes an internal flange 2321 and a tapered portion 2322. An externally threaded connection 2324 of an end portion 2326 of a second tubular member 2328 having an annular recess 2330, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2316 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2312 of the end portion 2314 of the first tubular member 2310. The internal flange 2318 of the sleeve 2316 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2330.

[00198] The first tubular member 2310 includes a recess 2331. The internal flange 2321 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2331. Thus, the sleeve 2316 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328.

[00199] The internally threaded connection 2312 of the end portion 2314 of the first tubular member 2310 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2324 of the end portion 2326 of the second tubular member 2328 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2316 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular

members 2310 and 2328. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00200] As illustrated in Fig. 23, the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328, and the tubular sleeve 2316 may then be positioned within another structure 2332 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 2334 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions 2320 and 2322, of the tubular sleeve 2316 facilitates the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 2332, and the displacement of the expansion device 2334 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328, may be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00201] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328, the tubular sleeve 2316 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2316 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 2314 and 2326, of the first and second tubular members 2310 and 2328, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00202] Sleeve 2316 increases the axial tension loading of the connection between tubular members 2310 and 2328 before and after expansion by the expansion device 2334. Sleeve 2316 may be secured to tubular members 2310 and 2328 by a heat shrink fit.

[00203] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2310 and 2328, and the tubular sleeve 2316 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00204] Referring to Fig. 24, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2410 includes an internally threaded connection 2412 at an end portion 2414. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2416 includes an internal flange 2418 and a tapered portion 2420. A second end of the sleeve 2416 includes an internal flange 2421 and a tapered portion 2422. An externally threaded connection 2424 of an end portion 2426 of a second tubular member 2428 having an annular recess 2430, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2416 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2412 of the end portion 2414 of the first tubular member 2410. The internal flange 2418 of the sleeve 2416 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2430. The first tubular member 2410 includes a recess 2431. The internal flange 2421 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2431. Thus, the sleeve 2416 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members 2410 and 2428.

[00205] The internally threaded connection 2412 of the end portion 2414 of the first tubular member 2410 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2424 of the end portion 2426 of the second tubular member 2428 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2416 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members 2410 and 2428. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members 2410 and 2428, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00206] As illustrated in Fig. 24, the first and second tubular members 2410 and 2428, and the tubular sleeve 2416 may then be positioned within another structure 2432 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 2434 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions 2420 and 2422, of the tubular sleeve 2416 facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 2432, and the displacement of the expansion device 2434 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members, 2410 and 2428, may be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00207] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 2410 and 2428, the tubular sleeve 2416 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2416 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 2414 and 2426, of the first and second tubular members, 2410 and 2428, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00208] The sleeve 2416 increases the axial compression and tension loading of the connection between tubular members 2410 and 2428 before and after expansion by expansion device 2424. Sleeve 2416 may be secured to tubular members 2410 and 2428 by a heat shrink fit.

[00209] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2410 and 2428, and the tubular sleeve 2416 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00210] Referring to Fig. 25, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2510 includes an internally threaded connection 2512 at an end portion 2514. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2516 includes an internal flange 2518 and a relief 2520. A second end of the sleeve 2516 includes an internal flange 2521 and a relief 2522. An externally threaded connection 2524 of an end portion 2526 of a second tubular member 2528 having an annular recess 2530, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2516 and threadably

coupled to the internally threaded connection 2512 of the end portion 2514 of the first tubular member 2510. The internal flange 2518 of the sleeve 2516 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2530. The first tubular member 2510 includes a recess 2531. The internal flange 2521 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2531. Thus, the sleeve 2516 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528.

[00211] The internally threaded connection 2512 of the end portion 2514 of the first tubular member 2510 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2524 of the end portion 2526 of the second tubular member 2528 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2516 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00212] As illustrated in Fig. 25, the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528, and the tubular sleeve 2516 may then be positioned within another structure 2532 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 2534 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The reliefs 2520 and 2522 are each filled with a sacrificial material 2540 including a tapered surface 2542 and 2544, respectively. The material 2540 may be a metal or a synthetic, and is provided to facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528, through the structure 2532. The displacement of the expansion device 2534 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528, may, for example, be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00213] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2510 and 2528, the tubular sleeve 2516 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2516 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 2514 and 2526, of the first and second tubular members, 2510 and 2528, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00214] The addition of the sacrificial material 2540, provided on sleeve 2516, avoids stress risers on the sleeve 2516 and the tubular member 2510. The tapered surfaces 2542 and 2544 are intended to wear or even become damaged, thus incurring such wear or damage which would otherwise be borne by sleeve 2516. Sleeve 2516 may be secured to tubular members 2510 and 2528 by a heat shrink fit.

[00215] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2510 and 2528, and the tubular sleeve 2516 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00216] Referring to Fig. 26, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2610 includes an internally threaded connection 2612 at an end portion 2614. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2616 includes an internal flange 2618 and a tapered portion 2620. A second end of the sleeve 2616 includes an internal flange 2621 and a tapered portion 2622. An externally threaded connection 2624 of an end portion 2626 of a second tubular member 2628 having an annular recess 2630, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2616 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2612 of the end portion 2614 of the first tubular member 2610. The internal flange 2618 of the sleeve 2616 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2630.

[00217] The first tubular member 2610 includes a recess 2631. The internal flange 2621 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2631. Thus, the sleeve 2616 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628.

[00218] The internally threaded connection 2612 of the end portion 2614 of the first tubular member 2610 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2624 of the end portion 2626 of the second tubular member 2628 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2616 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00219] As illustrated in Fig. 26, the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, and the tubular sleeve 2616 may then be positioned within another structure 2632 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 2634 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions 2620 and 2622, of the tubular sleeve 2616 facilitates the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 2632, and the displacement of the expansion device 2634 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, may, for example, be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00220] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, the tubular sleeve 2616 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2616 may

be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 2614 and 2626, of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00221] Sleeve 2616 is covered by a thin walled cylinder of sacrificial material 2640. Spaces 2623 and 2624, adjacent tapered portions 2620 and 2622, respectively, are also filled with an excess of the sacrificial material 2640. The material may be a metal or a synthetic, and is provided to facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members 2610 and 2628, through the structure 2632.

[00222] The addition of the sacrificial material 2640, provided on sleeve 2616, avoids stress risers on the sleeve 2616 and the tubular member 2610. The excess of the sacrificial material 2640 adjacent tapered portions 2620 and 2622 are intended to wear or even become damaged, thus incurring such wear or damage which would otherwise be borne by sleeve 2616. Sleeve 2616 may be secured to tubular members 2610 and 2628 by a heat shrink fit.

[00223] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2610 and 2628, and the tubular sleeve 2616 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00224] Referring to Fig. 27, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2710 includes an internally threaded connection 2712 at an end portion 2714. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2716 includes an internal flange 2718 and a tapered portion 2720. A second end of the sleeve 2716 includes an internal flange 2721 and a tapered portion 2722. An externally threaded connection 2724 of an end portion 2726 of a second tubular member 2728 having an annular recess 2730, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2716 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2712 of the end portion 2714 of the first tubular member 2710. The internal flange 2718 of the sleeve 2716 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2730.

[00225] The first tubular member 2710 includes a recess 2731. The internal flange 2721 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2731. Thus, the sleeve 2716 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728.

[00226] The internally threaded connection 2712 of the end portion 2714 of the first tubular member 2710 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2724 of the end portion 2726 of the second tubular member 2728 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2716 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and

second tubular members 2710 and 2728, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00227] As illustrated in Fig. 27, the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728, and the tubular sleeve 2716 may then be positioned within another structure 2732 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 2734 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions 2720 and 2722, of the tubular sleeve 2716 facilitates the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 2732, and the displacement of the expansion device 2734 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728, may be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00228] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728, the tubular sleeve 2716 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2716 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 2714 and 2726, of the first and second tubular members 2710 and 2728, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00229] Sleeve 2716 has a variable thickness due to one or more reduced thickness portions 2790 and/or increased thickness portions 2792.

[00230] Varying the thickness of sleeve 2716 provides the ability to control or induce stresses at selected positions along the length of sleeve 2716 and the end portions 2724 and 2726. Sleeve 2716 may be secured to tubular members 2710 and 2728 by a heat shrink fit.

[00231] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2710 and 2728, and the tubular sleeve 2716 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00232] Referring to Fig. 28, in an alternative embodiment, instead of varying the thickness of sleeve 2716, the same result described above with reference to Fig. 27, may be achieved by adding a member 2740 which may be coiled onto the grooves 2739 formed in sleeve 2716, thus varying the thickness along the length of sleeve 2716.

[00233] Referring to Fig. 29, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 2910 includes an internally threaded connection 2912 and an internal annular recess 2914 at an end portion 2916. A first end of a tubular sleeve 2918 includes an internal flange 2920, and a second end of the sleeve 2916 mates with and receives the end portion 2916 of the first tubular member 2910. An externally threaded connection 2922 of an end portion 2924 of a second tubular member 2926 having an annular recess 2928, is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 2918 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 2912

of the end portion 2916 of the first tubular member 2910. The internal flange 2920 of the sleeve 2918 mates with and is received within the annular recess 2928. A sealing element 2930 is received within the internal annular recess 2914 of the end portion 2916 of the first tubular member 2910.

[00234] The internally threaded connection 2912 of the end portion 2916 of the first tubular member 2910 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 2922 of the end portion 2924 of the second tubular member 2926 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 2918 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first tubular member 2910. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00235] The first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, and the tubular sleeve 2918 may be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00236] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, the tubular sleeve 2918 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 2918 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 2916 and 2924, of the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, respectively, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00237] In an exemplary embodiment, before, during, and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, and the tubular sleeve 2918, the sealing element 2930 seals the interface between the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, during and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, and the tubular sleeve 2918, a metal to metal seal is formed between at least one of: the first and second tubular members 2910 and 2926, the first tubular member and the tubular sleeve 2918, and/or the second tubular member and the tubular sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, the metal to metal seal is both fluid tight and gas tight.

[00238] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 2910 and 2926, the tubular sleeve 2918, and the sealing element 2930 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00239] Referring to Fig. 30a, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3010 includes internally threaded connections 3012a and 3012b, spaced apart by a

cylindrical internal surface 3014, at an end portion 3016. Externally threaded connections 3018a and 3018b, spaced apart by a cylindrical external surface 3020, of an end portion 3022 of a second tubular member 3024 are threadably coupled to the internally threaded connections, 3012a and 3012b, respectively, of the end portion 3016 of the first tubular member 3010. A sealing element 3026 is received within an annulus defined between the internal cylindrical surface 3014 of the first tubular member 3010 and the external cylindrical surface 3020 of the second tubular member 3024.

[00240] The internally threaded connections, 3012a and 3012b, of the end portion 3016 of the first tubular member 3010 are box connections, and the externally threaded connections, 3018a and 3018b, of the end portion 3022 of the second tubular member 3024 are pin connections. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element 3026 is an elastomeric and/or metallic sealing element.

[00241] The first and second tubular members 3010 and 3024 may be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00242] In an exemplary embodiment, before, during, and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3010 and 3024, the sealing element 3026 seals the interface between the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, before, during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3010 and 3024, a metal to metal seal is formed between at least one of: the first and second tubular members 3010 and 3024, the first tubular member and the sealing element 3026, and/or the second tubular member and the sealing element. In an exemplary embodiment, the metal to metal seal is both fluid tight and gas tight.

[00243] In an alternative embodiment, the sealing element 3026 is omitted, and during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3010 and 3024, a metal to metal seal is formed between the first and second tubular members.

[00244] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3010 and 3024, the sealing element 3026 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00245] Referring to Fig. 30b, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3030 includes internally threaded connections 3032a and 3032b, spaced apart by an undulating approximately cylindrical internal surface 3034, at an end portion 3036. Externally threaded connections 3038a and 3038b, spaced apart by a cylindrical external

surface 3040, of an end portion 3042 of a second tubular member 3044 are threadably coupled to the internally threaded connections, 3032a and 3032b, respectively, of the end portion 3036 of the first tubular member 3030. A sealing element 3046 is received within an annulus defined between the undulating approximately cylindrical internal surface 3034 of the first tubular member 3030 and the external cylindrical surface 3040 of the second tubular member 3044.

[00246] The internally threaded connections, 3032a and 3032b, of the end portion 3036 of the first tubular member 3030 are box connections, and the externally threaded connections, 3038a and 3038b, of the end portion 3042 of the second tubular member 3044 are pin connections. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element 3046 is an elastomeric and/or metallic sealing element.

[00247] The first and second tubular members 3030 and 3044 may be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00248] In an exemplary embodiment, before, during, and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3030 and 3044, the sealing element 3046 seals the interface between the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, before, during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3030 and 3044, a metal to metal seal is formed between at least one of: the first and second tubular members 3030 and 3044, the first tubular member and the sealing element 3046, and/or the second tubular member and the sealing element. In an exemplary embodiment, the metal to metal seal is both fluid tight and gas tight.

[00249] In an alternative embodiment, the sealing element 3046 is omitted, and during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3030 and 3044, a metal to metal seal is formed between the first and second tubular members.

[00250] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3030 and 3044, the sealing element 3046 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00251] Referring to Fig. 30c, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3050 includes internally threaded connections 3052a and 3052b, spaced apart by a cylindrical internal surface 3054 including one or more square grooves 3056, at an end portion 3058. Externally threaded connections 3060a and 3060b, spaced apart by a cylindrical external surface 3062 including one or more square grooves 3064, of an end

portion 3066 of a second tubular member 3068 are threadably coupled to the internally threaded connections, 3052a and 3052b, respectively, of the end portion 3058 of the first tubular member 3050. A sealing element 3070 is received within an annulus defined between the cylindrical internal surface 3054 of the first tubular member 3050 and the external cylindrical surface 3062 of the second tubular member 3068.

[00252] The internally threaded connections, 3052a and 3052b, of the end portion 3058 of the first tubular member 3050 are box connections, and the externally threaded connections, 3060a and 3060b, of the end portion 3066 of the second tubular member 3068 are pin connections. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element 3070 is an elastomeric and/or metallic sealing element.

[00253] The first and second tubular members 3050 and 3068 may be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00254] In an exemplary embodiment, before, during, and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3050 and 3068, the sealing element 3070 seals the interface between the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, before, during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3050 and 3068, a metal to metal seal is formed between at least one of: the first and second tubular members, the first tubular member and the sealing element 3070, and/or the second tubular member and the sealing element. In an exemplary embodiment, the metal to metal seal is both fluid tight and gas tight.

[00255] In an alternative embodiment, the sealing element 3070 is omitted, and during and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 950 and 968, a metal to metal seal is formed between the first and second tubular members.

[00256] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3050 and 3068, the sealing element 3070 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00257] Referring to Fig. 31, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3110 includes internally threaded connections, 3112a and 3112b, spaced apart by a non-threaded internal surface 3114, at an end portion 3116. Externally threaded connections, 3118a and 3118b, spaced apart by a non-threaded external surface 3120, of an end portion 3122 of a second tubular member 3124 are threadably coupled to the internally threaded

connections, 3112a and 3112b, respectively, of the end portion 3122 of the first tubular member 3124.

[00258] First, second, and/or third tubular sleeves, 3126, 3128, and 3130, are coupled the external surface of the first tubular member 3110 in opposing relation to the threaded connection formed by the internal and external threads, 3112a and 3118a, the interface between the non-threaded surfaces, 3114 and 3120, and the threaded connection formed by the internal and external threads, 3112b and 3118b, respectively.

[00259] The internally threaded connections, 3112a and 3112b, of the end portion 3116 of the first tubular member 3110 are box connections, and the externally threaded connections, 3118a and 3118b, of the end portion 3122 of the second tubular member 3124 are pin connections.

[00260] The first and second tubular members 3110 and 3124, and the tubular sleeves 3126, 3128, and/or 3130, may then be positioned within another structure 3132 such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device 3134 through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00261] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3110 and 3124, the tubular sleeves 3126, 3128 and/or 3130 are also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeves 3126, 3128, and/or 3130 are maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 3116 and 3122, of the first and second tubular members 3110 and 3124, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00262] The sleeves 3126, 3128, and/or 3130 may, for example, be secured to the first tubular member 3110 by a heat shrink fit.

[00263] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3110 and 3124, and the sleeves, 3126, 3128, and 3130, have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00264] Referring to Fig. 32a, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3210 includes an internally threaded connection 3212 at an end portion 3214. An externally threaded connection 3216 of an end portion 3218 of a second tubular member 3220 are threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 3212 of the end portion 3214 of the first tubular member 3210.

[00265] The internally threaded connection 3212 of the end portion 3214 of the first tubular member 3210 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 3216 of the end portion 3218 of the second tubular member 3220 is a pin connection.

[00266] A tubular sleeve 3222 including internal flanges 3224 and 3226 is positioned proximate and surrounding the end portion 3214 of the first tubular member 3210. As illustrated in Fig. 32b, the tubular sleeve 3222 is then forced into engagement with the external surface of the end portion 3214 of the first tubular member 3210 in a conventional manner. As a result, the end portions, 3214 and 3218, of the first and second tubular members, 3210 and 3220, are upset in an undulating fashion.

[00267] The first and second tubular members 3210 and 3220, and the tubular sleeve 3222, may then be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating an expansion device through and/or within the interiors of the first and second tubular members.

[00268] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members 3210 and 3220, the tubular sleeve 3222 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. In an exemplary embodiment, as a result, the tubular sleeve 3222 is maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions 3214 and 3218, of the first and second tubular members 3210 and 3220, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00269] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3210 and 3220, and the sleeve 3222 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00270] Referring to Fig. 33, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3310 includes an internally threaded connection 3312 and an annular projection 3314 at an end portion 3316.

[00271] A first end of a tubular sleeve 3318 that includes an internal flange 3320 having a tapered portion 3322 and an annular recess 3324 for receiving the annular projection 3314 of the first tubular member 3310, and a second end that includes a tapered portion 3326, is then mounted upon and receives the end portion 3316 of the first tubular member 3310.

[00272] In an exemplary embodiment, the end portion 3316 of the first tubular member 3310 abuts one side of the internal flange 3320 of the tubular sleeve 3318 and the annular projection 3314 of the end portion of the first tubular member mates with and is received within the annular recess 3324 of the internal flange of the tubular sleeve, and the internal diameter of the internal flange 3320 of the tubular sleeve 3318 is substantially equal to or greater than the maximum internal diameter of the internally threaded connection 3312 of the end portion 3316 of the first tubular member 3310. An externally threaded connection 3326 of an end portion 3328 of a second tubular member 3330 having an annular recess 3332 is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 3318 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 3312 of the end portion 3316 of the first tubular member

3310. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal flange 3332 of the tubular sleeve 3318 mates with and is received within the annular recess 3332 of the end portion 3328 of the second tubular member 3330. Thus, the tubular sleeve 3318 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3328.

[00273] The internally threaded connection 3312 of the end portion 3316 of the first tubular member 3310 is a box connection, and the externally threaded connection 3326 of the end portion 3328 of the second tubular member 3330 is a pin connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal diameter of the tubular sleeve 3318 is at least approximately .020" greater than the outside diameters of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330. In this manner, during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, fluidic materials within the first and second tubular members may be vented from the tubular members.

[00274] As illustrated in Fig. 33, the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, and the tubular sleeve 3318 may be positioned within another structure 3334 such as, for example, a cased or uncased wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating a conventional expansion device 3336 within and/or through the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions, 3322 and 3326, of the tubular sleeve 3318 facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure 3334, and the movement of the expansion device 3336 through the interiors of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, may, for example, be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00275] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, the tubular sleeve 3318 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. As a result, the tubular sleeve 3318 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00276] Sleeve 3316 increases the axial compression loading of the connection between tubular members 3310 and 3330 before and after expansion by the expansion device 3336. Sleeve 3316 may be secured to tubular members 3310 and 3330, for example, by a heat shrink fit.

[00277] In several alternative embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, are radially expanded and plastically deformed using other conventional methods for radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members such as, for example, internal pressurization, hydroforming, and/or roller expansion devices and/or any one or combination of the conventional commercially available expansion products and services available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C.

[00278] The use of the tubular sleeve 3318 during (a) the coupling of the first tubular member 3310 to the second tubular member 3330, (b) the placement of the first and second tubular members in the structure 3334, and (c) the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members provides a number of significant benefits. For example, the tubular sleeve 3318 protects the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, during handling and insertion of the tubular members within the structure 3334. In this manner, damage to the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, is avoided that could otherwise result in stress concentrations that could cause a catastrophic failure during subsequent radial expansion operations. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 3318 provides an alignment guide that facilitates the insertion and threaded coupling of the second tubular member 3330 to the first tubular member 3310. In this manner, misalignment that could result in damage to the threaded connections, 3312 and 3326, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, may be avoided. In addition, during the relative rotation of the second tubular member with respect to the first tubular member, required during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members, the tubular sleeve 3318 provides an indication of to what degree the first and second tubular members are threadably coupled. For example, if the tubular sleeve 3318 can be easily rotated, that would indicate that the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, are not fully threadably coupled and in intimate contact with the internal flange 3320 of the tubular sleeve. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 3318 may prevent crack propagation during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330. In this manner, failure modes such as, for example, longitudinal cracks in the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members may be limited in severity or eliminated all together. In addition, after completing the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, the tubular sleeve 3318 may provide a fluid tight metal-to-metal seal between interior surface of the tubular sleeve 3318 and the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members. In this manner, fluidic materials are prevented from passing through the threaded connections, 3312 and 3326, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, into the annulus between the first and second tubular members and the structure 3334. Furthermore, because, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, the tubular sleeve 3318 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 3316 and 3328, of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, may be maintained in circumferential compression, axial loads and/or torque loads may be transmitted through the tubular sleeve.

[00279] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3310 and 3330, and the sleeve 3318 have one or more of the material properties of one or more of the tubular members 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204.

[00280] Referring to Figs. 34a, 34b, and 34c, in an exemplary embodiment, a first tubular member 3410 includes an internally threaded connection 1312 and one or more external grooves 3414 at an end portion 3416.

[00281] A first end of a tubular sleeve 3418 that includes an internal flange 3420 and a tapered portion 3422, a second end that includes a tapered portion 3424, and an intermediate portion that includes one or more longitudinally aligned openings 3426, is then mounted upon and receives the end portion 3416 of the first tubular member 3410.

[00282] In an exemplary embodiment, the end portion 3416 of the first tubular member 3410 abuts one side of the internal flange 3420 of the tubular sleeve 3418, and the internal diameter of the internal flange 3420 of the tubular sleeve 3416 is substantially equal to or greater than the maximum internal diameter of the internally threaded connection 3412 of the end portion 3416 of the first tubular member 3410. An externally threaded connection 3428 of an end portion 3430 of a second tubular member 3432 that includes one or more internal grooves 3434 is then positioned within the tubular sleeve 3418 and threadably coupled to the internally threaded connection 3412 of the end portion 3416 of the first tubular member 3410. In an exemplary embodiment, the internal flange 3420 of the tubular sleeve 3418 mates with and is received within an annular recess 3436 defined in the end portion 3430 of the second tubular member 3432. Thus, the tubular sleeve 3418 is coupled to and surrounds the external surfaces of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432.

[00283] The first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, and the tubular sleeve 3418 may be positioned within another structure such as, for example, a cased or uncased wellbore, and radially expanded and plastically deformed, for example, by displacing and/or rotating a conventional expansion device within and/or through the interiors of the first and second tubular members. The tapered portions, 3422 and 3424, of the tubular sleeve 3418 facilitate the insertion and movement of the first and second tubular members within and through the structure, and the movement of the expansion device through the interiors of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, may be from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

[00284] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, the tubular sleeve 3418 is also radially expanded and plastically deformed. As a result, the tubular sleeve 3418 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, may be maintained in circumferential compression.

[00285] Sleeve 3416 increases the axial compression loading of the connection between tubular members 3410 and 3432 before and after expansion by the expansion device. The sleeve 3418 may be secured to tubular members 3410 and 3432, for example, by a heat shrink fit.

[00286] During the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, the grooves 3414 and/or 3434 and/or the openings 3426 provide stress concentrations that in turn apply added stress forces to the mating threads of the threaded connections, 3412 and 3428. As a result, during and after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, the mating threads of the threaded connections, 3412 and 3428, are maintained in metal to metal contact thereby providing a fluid and gas tight connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the orientations of the grooves 3414 and/or 3434 and the openings 3426 are orthogonal to one another. In an exemplary embodiment, the grooves 3414 and/or 3434 are helical grooves.

[00287] In several alternative embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, are radially expanded and plastically deformed using other conventional methods for radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members such as, for example, internal pressurization, hydroforming, and/or roller expansion devices and/or any one or combination of the conventional commercially available expansion products and services available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C.

[00288] The use of the tubular sleeve 3418 during (a) the coupling of the first tubular member 3410 to the second tubular member 3432, (b) the placement of the first and second tubular members in the structure, and (c) the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members provides a number of significant benefits. For example, the tubular sleeve 3418 protects the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, during handling and insertion of the tubular members within the structure.. In this manner, damage to the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, is avoided that could otherwise result in stress concentrations that could cause a catastrophic failure during subsequent radial expansion operations. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 3418 provides an alignment guide that facilitates the insertion and threaded coupling of the second tubular member 3432 to the first tubular member 3410. In this manner, misalignment that could result in damage to the threaded connections, 3412 and 3428, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, may be avoided. In addition, during the relative rotation of the second tubular member with respect to the first tubular member, required during the threaded coupling of the first and second tubular members, the tubular sleeve 3416 provides an indication of to what degree the first and second tubular members

are threadably coupled. For example, if the tubular sleeve 3418 can be easily rotated, that would indicate that the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, are not fully threadably coupled and in intimate contact with the internal flange 3420 of the tubular sleeve. Furthermore, the tubular sleeve 3418 may prevent crack propagation during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432. In this manner, failure modes such as, for example, longitudinal cracks in the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members may be limited in severity or eliminated all together. In addition, after completing the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, the tubular sleeve 3418 may provide a fluid and gas tight metal-to-metal seal between interior surface of the tubular sleeve 3418 and the exterior surfaces of the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members. In this manner, fluidic materials are prevented from passing through the threaded connections, 3412 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, into the annulus between the first and second tubular members and the structure. Furthermore, because, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, the tubular sleeve 3418 may be maintained in circumferential tension and the end portions, 3416 and 3430, of the first and second tubular members, 3410 and 3432, may be maintained in circumferential compression, axial loads and/or torque loads may be transmitted through the tubular sleeve.

[00289] In several exemplary embodiments, the first and second tubular members described above with reference to Figs. 1 to 34c are radially expanded and plastically deformed using the expansion device in a conventional manner and/or using one or more of the methods and apparatus disclosed in one or more of the following: The present application is related to the following: (1) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/454,139, attorney docket no. 25791.03.02, filed on 12/3/1999, (2) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/510,913, attorney docket no. 25791.7.02, filed on 2/23/2000, (3) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/502,350, attorney docket no. 25791.8.02, filed on 2/10/2000, (4) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/440,338, attorney docket no. 25791.9.02, filed on 11/15/1999, (5) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/523,460, attorney docket no. 25791.11.02, filed on 3/10/2000, (6) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/512,895, attorney docket no. 25791.12.02, filed on 2/24/2000, (7) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/511,941, attorney docket no. 25791.16.02, filed on 2/24/2000, (8) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/588,946, attorney docket no. 25791.17.02, filed on 6/7/2000, (9) U.S. patent application serial no. 09/559,122, attorney docket no. 25791.23.02, filed on 4/26/2000, (10) PCT patent application serial no. PCT/US00/18635, attorney docket no. 25791.25.02, filed on 7/9/2000, (11) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/162,671, attorney docket no. 25791.27, filed on 11/1/1999, (12) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/154,047, attorney

docket no. 25791.29, filed on 9/16/1999, (13) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,082, attorney docket no. 25791.34, filed on 10/12/1999, (14) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,039, attorney docket no. 25791.36, filed on 10/12/1999, (15) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/159,033, attorney docket no. 25791.37, filed on 10/12/1999, (16) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/212,359, attorney docket no. 25791.38, filed on 6/19/2000, (17) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/165,228, attorney docket no. 25791.39, filed on 11/12/1999, (18) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/221,443, attorney docket no. 25791.45, filed on 7/28/2000, (19) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/221,645, attorney docket no. 25791.46, filed on 7/28/2000, (20) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/233,638, attorney docket no. 25791.47, filed on 9/18/2000, (21) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/237,334, attorney docket no. 25791.48, filed on 10/2/2000, (22) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/270,007, attorney docket no. 25791.50, filed on 2/20/2001, (23) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/262,434, attorney docket no. 25791.51, filed on 1/17/2001, (24) U.S, provisional patent application serial no. 60/259,486, attorney docket no. 25791.52, filed on 1/3/2001, (25) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/303,740, attorney docket no. 25791.61, filed on 7/6/2001, (26) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/313,453, attorney docket no. 25791.59, filed on 8/20/2001, (27) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/317,985, attorney docket no. 25791.67, filed on 9/6/2001, (28) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/3318,386, attorney docket no. 25791.67.02, filed on 9/10/2001, (29) U.S. utility patent application serial no. 09/969,922, attorney docket no. 25791.69, filed on 10/3/2001, (30) U.S. utility patent application serial no. 10/016,467, attorney docket no. 25791.70, filed on December 10, 2001, (31) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/343,674, attorney docket no. 25791.68, filed on 12/27/2001; and (32) U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/346,309, attorney docket no. 25791.92, filed on 01/07/02, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[00290] Referring to Fig. 35a an exemplary embodiment of an expandable tubular member 3500 includes a first tubular region 3502 and a second tubular portion 3504. In an exemplary embodiment, the material properties of the first and second tubular regions, 3502 and 3504, are different. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield points of the first and second tubular regions, 3502 and 3504, are different. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the first tubular region 3502 is less than the yield point of the second tubular region 3504. In several exemplary embodiments, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202 and/or 204 incorporate the tubular member 3500.

[00291] Referring to Fig. 35b, in an exemplary embodiment, the yield point within the first and second tubular regions, 3502a and 3502b, of the expandable tubular member 3502

vary as a function of the radial position within the expandable tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point increases as a function of the radial position within the expandable tubular member 3502. In an exemplary embodiment, the relationship between the yield point and the radial position within the expandable tubular member 3502 is a linear relationship. In an exemplary embodiment, the relationship between the yield point and the radial position within the expandable tubular member 3502 is a non-linear relationship. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point increases at different rates within the first and second tubular regions, 3502a and 3502b, as a function of the radial position within the expandable tubular member 3502. In an exemplary embodiment, the functional relationship, and value, of the yield points within the first and second tubular regions, 3502a and 3502b, of the expandable tubular member 3502 are modified by the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member.

[00292] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202, 204 and/or 3502, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation, include a microstructure that is a combination of a hard phase, such as martensite, a soft phase, such as ferrite, and a transitionary phase, such as retained austentite. In this manner, the hard phase provides high strength, the soft phase provides ductility, and the transitionary phase transitions to a hard phase, such as martensite, during a radial expansion and plastic deformation. Furthermore, in this manner, the yield point of the tubular member increases as a result of the radial expansion and plastic deformation. Further, in this manner, the tubular member is ductile, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, thereby facilitating the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the composition of a dual-phase expandable tubular member includes (weight percentages): about 0.1% C, 1.2% Mn, and 0.3% Si.

[00293] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 36a-36c, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202, 204 and/or 3502 are processed in accordance with a method 3600, in which, in step 3602, an expandable tubular member 3602a is provided that is a steel alloy having following material composition (by weight percentage): 0.065% C, 1.44% Mn, 0.01% P, 0.002% S, 0.24% Si, 0.01% Cu, 0.01% Ni, 0.02% Cr, 0.05% V, 0.01%Mo, 0.01% Nb, and 0.01% Ti. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3602a provided in step 3602 has a yield strength of 45 ksi, and a tensile strength of 69 ksi.

[00294] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 36b, in step 3602, the expandable tubular member 3602a includes a microstructure that includes martensite, pearlite, and V, Ni, and/or Ti carbides.

[00295] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3602a is then heated at a temperature of 790 °C for about 10 minutes in step 3604.

[00296] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3602a is then quenched in water in step 3606.

[00297] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 36c, following the completion of step 3606, the expandable tubular member 3602a includes a microstructure that includes new ferrite, grain pearlite, martensite, and ferrite. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, following the completion of step 3606, the expandable tubular member 3602a has a yield strength of 67 ksi, and a tensile strength of 95 ksi.

[00298] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3602a is then radially expanded and plastically deformed using one or more of the methods and apparatus described above. In an exemplary embodiment, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member 3602a, the yield strength of the expandable tubular member is about 95 ksi.

[00299] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 37a-37c, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202, 204 and/or 3502 are processed in accordance with a method 3700, in which, in step 3702, an expandable tubular member 3702a is provided that is a steel alloy having following material composition (by weight percentage): 0.18% C, 1.28% Mn, 0.017% P, 0.004% S, 0.29% Si, 0.01% Cu, 0.01% Ni, 0.03% Cr, 0.04% V, 0.01%Mo, 0.03% Nb, and 0.01% Ti. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3702a provided in step 3702 has a yield strength of 60 ksi, and a tensile strength of 80 ksi.

[00300] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 37b, in step 3702, the expandable tubular member 3702a includes a microstructure that includes pearlite and pearlite striation.

[00301] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3702a is then heated at a temperature of 790 °C for about 10 minutes in step 3704.

[00302] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3702a is then quenched in water in step 3706.

[00303] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 37c, following the completion of step 3706, the expandable tubular member 3702a includes a microstructure that includes ferrite, martensite, and bainite. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, following the completion of step 3706, the expandable tubular member 3702a has a yield strength of 82 ksi, and a tensile strength of 130 ksi.

[00304] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3702a is then radially expanded and plastically deformed using one or more of the methods and apparatus described above. In an exemplary embodiment, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member 3702a, the yield strength of the expandable tubular member is about 130 ksi.

[00305] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 38a-38c, one or more of the expandable tubular members, 12, 14, 24, 26, 102, 104, 106, 108, 202, 204 and/or 3502 are processed in accordance with a method 3800, in which, in step 3802, an expandable tubular member 3802a is provided that is a steel alloy having following material composition (by weight percentage): 0.08% C, 0.82% Mn, 0.006% P, 0.003% S, 0.30% Si, 0.06% Cu, 0.05% Ni, 0.05% Cr, 0.03% V, 0.03%Mo, 0.01% Nb, and 0.01% Ti. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3802a provided in step 3802 has a yield strength of 56 ksi, and a tensile strength of 75 ksi.

[00306] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 38b, in step 3802, the expandable tubular member 3802a includes a microstructure that includes grain pearlite, widmanstatten martensite and carbides of V, Ni, and/or Ti.

[00307] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3802a is then heated at a temperature of 790 °C for about 10 minutes in step 3804.

[00308] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3802a is then quenched in water in step 3806.

[00309] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 38c, following the completion of step 3806, the expandable tubular member 3802a includes a microstructure that includes bainite, pearlite, and new ferrite. In an exemplary experimental embodiment, following the completion of step 3806, the expandable tubular member 3802a has a yield strength of 60 ksi, and a tensile strength of 97 ksi.

[00310] In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 3802a is then radially expanded and plastically deformed using one or more of the methods and apparatus described above. In an exemplary embodiment, following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member 3802a, the yield strength of the expandable tubular member is about 97 ksi.

[00311] In several exemplary embodiments, the teachings of the present disclosure are combined with one or more of the teachings disclosed in FR 2 841 626, filed on 6/28/2002, and published on 1/2/2004, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[00312] Referring to Figs. 39a-39f, an exemplary embodiment of an expansion system 3900 includes an adjustable expansion device 3902 and a hydroforming expansion device 3904 that are both coupled to a support member 3906.

[00313] In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device 3902 includes one or more elements of conventional adjustable expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the adjustable expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional commercially available adjustable expansion devices available from Baker Hughes,

Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. In several exemplary embodiments, the hydroforming expansion device 3904 includes one or more elements of conventional hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional commercially available hydroforming devices available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,901,594, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device 3902 and the hydroforming expansion device 3904 may be combined in a single device and/or include one or more elements of each other.

[00314] In an exemplary embodiment, during the operation of the expansion system 3900, as illustrated in Figs. 39a and 39b, the expansion system is positioned within an expandable tubular assembly that includes first and second tubular members, 3908 and 3910, that are coupled end to end and positioned and supported within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 3912 that traverses a subterranean formation 3914. In several exemplary embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 3908 and 3910, include one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00315] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 39c, the hydroforming expansion device 3904 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform a portion of the second tubular member 3910.

[00316] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 39d, the hydroforming expansion device 3904 may then be disengaged from the second tubular member 3910.

[00317] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 39e, the adjustable expansion device 3902 may then be positioned within the radially expanded portion of the second tubular member 3910 and the size the adjustable expansion device increased.

[00318] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 39f, the adjustable expansion device 3902 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 3908 and 3910.

[00319] Referring to Figs. 40a-40g, an exemplary embodiment of an expansion system 4000 includes a hydroforming expansion device 4002 that is coupled to a support member 4004.

[00320] In several exemplary embodiments, the hydroforming expansion device 4002 includes one or more elements of conventional hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional

commercially available hydroforming devices available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,901,594, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[00321] In an exemplary embodiment, during the operation of the expansion system 4000, as illustrated in Figs. 40a and 40b, the expansion system is positioned within an expandable tubular assembly that includes first and second tubular members, 4006 and 4008, that are coupled end to end and positioned and supported within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 4010 that traverses a subterranean formation 4012. In several exemplary embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 4004 and 4006, include one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00322] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 40c to 40f, the hydroforming expansion device 4002 may then be repeatedly operated to radially expand and plastically deform one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 4008 and 4010.

[00323] Referring to Figs. 41a-41h, an exemplary embodiment of an expansion system 4100 includes an adjustable expansion device 4102 and a hydroforming expansion device 4104 that are both coupled to a tubular support member 4106.

[00324] In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device 4102 includes one or more elements of conventional adjustable expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the adjustable expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional commercially available adjustable expansion devices available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. In several exemplary embodiments, the hydroforming expansion device 4104 includes one or more elements of conventional hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional commercially available hydroforming devices available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,901,594, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device 4102 and the hydroforming expansion device 4104 may be combined in a single device and/or include one or more elements of each other.

[00325] In an exemplary embodiment, during the operation of the expansion system 4100, as illustrated in Figs. 41a and 41b, the expansion system is positioned within an

expandable tubular assembly that includes first and second tubular members, 4108 and 4110, that are coupled end to end and positioned and supported within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 4112 that traverses a subterranean formation 4114. In an exemplary embodiment, a shoe 4116 having a valveable passage 4118 is coupled to the lower portion of the second tubular member 4110. In several exemplary embodiments, the first and second tubular members, 4108 and 4110, include one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00326] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 41c, the hydroforming expansion device 4104 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform a portion of the second tubular member 4110.

[00327] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 41d, the hydroforming expansion device 4104 may then be disengaged from the second tubular member 4110.

[00328] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 41e and 41f, the adjustable expansion device 4102 may then be positioned within the radially expanded portion of the second tubular member 4110 and the size the adjustable expansion device increased. The valveable passage 4118 of the shoe 4116 may then be closed, for example, by placing a ball 4120 within the passage in a conventional manner.

[00329] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 41g, the adjustable expansion device 4102 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform one or more portions of the first and second tubular members, 4108 and 4110, above the shoe 4116.

[00330] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 41h, the expansion system 4100 may then be removed from the tubular assembly and the lower, radially unexpanded, portion of the second tubular member 4110 and the shoe 4116 may be machined away.

[00331] Referring to Figs. 42a-42e, an exemplary embodiment of an expansion system 4200 includes a hydroforming expansion device 4202 that is coupled to a tubular support member 4204. An expandable tubular member 4206 is coupled to and supported by the hydroforming expansion device 4202.

[00332] In several exemplary embodiments, the hydroforming expansion device 4202 includes one or more elements of conventional hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the related applications referenced above and/or one or more elements of the conventional commercially available hydroforming devices available from Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Schlumberger, and/or Enventure Global Technology L.L.C. and/or one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion devices disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,901,594, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[00333] In several exemplary embodiments, the expandable tubular member 4206 includes one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00334] In an exemplary embodiment, during the operation of the expansion system 4200, as illustrated in Figs. 42a and 42b, the expansion system is positioned within an expandable tubular assembly that includes first and second tubular members, 4208 and 4210, that are coupled end to end and positioned and supported within a preexisting structure such as, for example, a wellbore 4212 that traverses a subterranean formation 4214. In an exemplary embodiment, the second tubular member 4210 includes one or more radial passages 4212. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 4206 is positioned in opposing relation to the radial passages 4212 of the second tubular member 4210.

[00335] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 42c, the hydroforming expansion device 4202 may then be operated to radially expand and plastically deform the expandable tubular member 4206 into contact with the interior surface of the second tubular member 4210 thereby covering and sealing off the radial passages 4212 of the second tubular member.

[00336] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 42d, the hydroforming expansion device 4202 may then be disengaged from the expandable tubular member 4206.

[00337] In an exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in Figs. 42e, the expansion system 4200 may then be removed from the wellbore 4212.

[00338] Referring to Fig. 43, an exemplary embodiment of a hydroforming expansion system 4300 includes an expansion element 4302 that is provided substantially as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,901,594, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[00339] A flow line 4304 is coupled to the inlet of the expansion element 4302 and the outlet of conventional 2-way/2-position flow control valve 4306. A flow line 4308 is coupled to an inlet of the flow control valve 4306 and an outlet of a conventional accumulator 4310, and a flow line 4312 is coupled to another inlet of the flow control valve and a fluid reservoir 4314.

[00340] A flow line 4316 is coupled to the flow line 4308 and an the inlet of a conventional pressure relief valve 4318, and a flow line 4320 is coupled to the outlet of the pressure relief valve and the fluid reservoir 4314. A flow line 4322 is coupled to the inlet of the accumulator 4310 and the outlet of a conventional check valve 4324.

[00341] A flow line 4326 is coupled to the inlet of the check valve 4324 and the outlet of a conventional pump 4328. A flow line 4330 is coupled to the flow line 4326 and the inlet of a conventional pressure relief valve 4332.

[00342] A flow line 4334 is coupled to the outlet of the pressure relief valve 4332 and the fluid reservoir 4314, and a flow line 4336 is coupled to the inlet of the pump 4328 and the fluid reservoir.

[00343] A controller 4338 is operably coupled to the flow control valve 4306 and the pump 4328 for controlling the operation of the flow control valve and the pump. In an exemplary embodiment, the controller 4338 is a programmable general purpose controller. Conventional pressure sensors, 4340, 4342 and 4344, are operably coupled to the expansion element 4302, the accumulator 4310, and the flow line 4326, respectively, and the controller 4338. A conventional user interface 4346 is operably coupled to the controller 4338.

[00344] During operation of the hydroforming expansion system 4300, as illustrated in Figs. 44a-44b, the system implements a method of operation 4400 in which, in step 4402, the user may select expansion of an expandable tubular member. If the user selects expansion in step 4402, then the controller 4338 determines if the operating pressure of the accumulator 4310, as sensed by the pressure sensor 4342, is greater than or equal to a predetermined value in step 4404.

[00345] If the operating pressure of the accumulator 4310, as sensed by the pressure sensor 4342, is not greater than or equal to the predetermined value in step 4404, then the controller 4338 operates the pump 4328 to increase the operating pressure of the accumulator in step 4406. The controller 4338 then determines if the operating pressure of the accumulator 4310, as sensed by the pressure sensor 4342, is greater than or equal to a predetermined value in step 4408. If the operating pressure of the accumulator 4310, as sensed by the pressure sensor 4342, in step 4408, is not greater than or equal to the predetermined value, then the controller 4338 continues to operate the pump 4328 to increase the operating pressure of the accumulator in step 4406.

[00346] If the operating pressure of the accumulator 4310, as sensed by the pressure sensor 4342, in steps 4404 or 4408, is greater than or equal to the predetermined value, then the controller 4338 operates the flow control valve 4306 to pressurize the expansion element 4302 in step 4410 by positioning the flow control valve to couple the flow lines 4304 and 4308 to one another. If the expansion operation has been completed in step 4412, then the controller 4338 operates the flow control valve 4306 to de-pressurize the expansion element 4302 in step 4414 by positioning the flow control valve to couple the flow lines 4304 and 4312 to one another.

[00347] In several exemplary embodiments, one or more of the hydroforming expansion devices 4002, 4104, and 4202, incorporate one or more elements of the hydroforming expansion system 4300 and/or the operational steps of the method 4400.

[00348] Referring to Fig. 45a, an exemplary embodiment of a liner hanger system 4500 includes a tubular support member 4502 that defines a passage 4502a and includes an externally threaded connection 4502b at an end. An internally threaded connection 4504a of an end of an outer tubular mandrel 4504 that defines a passage 4504b, and includes an external flange 4504c, an internal annular recess 4504d, an external annular recess 4504e, an external annular recess 4504f, an external flange 4504g, an external annular recess 4504h, an internal flange 4504i, an external flange 4504j, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinally aligned teeth 4504k at another end, is coupled to and receives the externally threaded connection 4502b of the end of the tubular support member 4502.

[00349] An end of a tubular liner hanger 4506 that abuts and mates with an end face of the external flange 4504c of the outer tubular mandrel 4504 receives and mates with the outer tubular mandrel, and includes internal teeth 4506a, a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinally aligned internal teeth 4506b, an internal flange 4506c, and an external threaded connection 4506d at another end. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 includes one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00350] An internal threaded connection 4508a of an end of a tubular liner 4508 receives and is coupled to the external threaded connection 4506d of the tubular liner hanger 4506. Spaced apart elastomeric sealing elements, 4510, 4512, and 4514, are coupled to the exterior surface of the end of the tubular liner hanger 4506

[00351] An external flange 4516a of an end of an inner tubular mandrel 4516 that defines a longitudinal passage 4516b having a throat 4516ba and a radial passage 4516c and includes a sealing member 4516d mounted upon the external flange for sealingly engaging the inner annular recess 4504d of the outer tubular mandrel 4504, an external flange 4516e at another end that includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart teeth 4516f that mate with and engage the teeth, 4504k and 4506b, of the outer tubular mandrel 4504 and the tubular liner hanger 4506, respectively, for transmitting torsional loads therebetween, and another end that is received within and mates with the internal flange 4506c of the tubular liner hanger 4506 mates with and is received within the inner annular recess 4504d of the outer tubular mandrel 4504. A conventional rupture disc 4518 is received within and coupled to the radial passage 4516c of the inner tubular mandrel 4516.

[0001] A conventional packer cup 4520 is mounted within and coupled to the external annular recess 4504e of the outer tubular mandrel 4504 for sealingly engaging the interior surface of the tubular liner hanger 4506. A locking assembly 4522 is mounted upon and coupled to the outer tubular mandrel 4504 proximate the external flange 4504g in opposing relation to the internal teeth 4506a of the tubular liner hanger 4506 for controllably engaging

and locking the position of the tubular liner hanger relative to the outer tubular mandrel 4504. In several exemplary embodiments, the locking assembly 4522 may be a conventional locking device for locking the position of a tubular member relative to another member. In several alternative embodiments, the locking assembly 4522 may include one or more elements of the locking assemblies disclosed in one or more of the following: (1) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36157, attorney docket number 25791.87.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (2) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36267, attorney docket number 25791.88.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (3) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/04837, attorney docket number 25791.95.02, filed on 2/29/2003, (4) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29859, attorney docket no. 25791.102.02, filed on 9/22/2003, (5) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/14153, attorney docket number 25791.104.02, filed on 11/13/2003, (6) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/18530, attorney docket number 25791.108.02, filed on 6/11/2003, (7) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29858, attorney docket number 25791.112.02, (8) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29460, attorney docket number 25791.114.02, filed on 9/23/2003, filed on 9/22/2003, (9) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/07711, attorney docket number 25791.253.02, filed on 3/11/2004, (10) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/009434, attorney docket number 25791.260.02, filed on 3/26/2004, (11) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010317, attorney docket number 25791.270.02, filed on 4/2/2004, (12) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010712, attorney docket number 25791.272.02, filed on 4/7/2004, (13) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010762, attorney docket number 25791.273.02, filed on 4/6/2004, and/or (14) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/011973, attorney docket number 25791.277.02, filed on April 15, 2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0002] An adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is mounted upon and coupled to the outer tubular mandrel 4504 between the locking assembly 4522 and the external flange 4504j for controllably radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular liner hanger 4506. In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 may be a conventional adjustable expansion device assembly for radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members that may include one or more elements of conventional adjustable expansion cones, mandrels, rotary expansion devices, hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the one or more of the commercially available adjustable expansion devices of Enventure Global Technology LLC, Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, and/or Schlumberger and/or one or more elements of the adjustable expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the published patent

applications and/or issued patents of Enventure Global Technology LLC, Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Shell Oil Co. and/or Schlumberger. In several alternative embodiments, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 may include one or more elements of the adjustable expansion device assemblies disclosed in one or more of the following: (1) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36157, attorney docket number 25791.87.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (2) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36267, attorney docket number 25791.88.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (3) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/04837, attorney docket number 25791.95.02, filed on 2/29/2003, (4) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29859, attorney docket no. 25791.102.02, filed on 9/22/2003, (5) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/14153, attorney docket number 25791.104.02, filed on 11/13/2003, (6) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/18530, attorney docket number 25791.108.02, filed on 6/11/2003, (7) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29858, attorney docket number 25791.112.02, (8) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29460, attorney docket number 25791.114.02, filed on 9/23/2003, filed on 9/22/2003, (9) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/07711, attorney docket number 25791.253.02, filed on 3/11/2004, (10) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/009434, attorney docket number 25791.260.02, filed on 3/26/2004, (11) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010317, attorney docket number 25791.270.02, filed on 4/2/2004, (12) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010712, attorney docket number 25791.272.02, filed on 4/7/2004, (13) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010762, attorney docket number 25791.273.02, filed on 4/6/2004, and/or (14) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/011973, attorney docket number 25791.277.02, filed on April 15, 2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[00352] A conventional SSR plug set 4526 is mounted within and coupled to the internal flange 4506c of the tubular liner hanger 4506.

[00353] In an exemplary embodiment, during operation of the system 4500, as illustrated in Fig. 45a, the system is positioned within a wellbore 4528 that traverses a subterranean formation 4530 and includes a preexisting wellbore casing 4532 coupled to and positioned within the wellbore. In an exemplary embodiment, the system 4500 is positioned such that the tubular liner hanger 4506 overlaps with the casing 4532.

[00354] Referring to Fig. 45b, in an exemplary embodiment, a ball 4534 is then positioned in the throat passage 4516ba by injecting fluidic materials 4536 into the system 4500 through the passages 4502a, 4504b, and 4516b, of the tubular support member 4502, outer tubular mandrel 4504, and inner tubular mandrel 4516, respectively.

[00355] Referring to Fig. 45c, in an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the system 4500, following the placement of the ball 4534 in the throat passage 4516ba, pressurizes the passage 4516b of the inner tubular mandrel 4516 such that the rupture disc 4518 is ruptured thereby permitting the fluidic materials to pass through the radial passage 4516c of the inner tubular mandrel. As a result, the interior of the tubular liner hanger 4506 is pressurized.

[00356] Referring to Fig. 45d, in an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the interior of the tubular liner hanger 4506 radially expands and plastically deforms at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger. In an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the interior of the tubular liner hanger 4506 radially expands and plastically deforms a portion of the tubular liner hanger positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524. In an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the interior of the tubular liner hanger 4506 radially expands and plastically deforms a portion of the tubular liner hanger positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 into engagement with the wellbore casing 4532.

[00357] Referring to Fig. 45e, in an exemplary embodiment, the size of the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is then increased within the radially expanded portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506, and the locking assembly 4522 is operated to unlock the tubular liner hanger from engagement with the locking assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the locking assembly 4522 and the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 are operated using the operating pressure provided by the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the system 4500. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustment of the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 to a larger size radially expands and plastically deforms at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506.

[00358] Referring to Fig. 45f, in an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the tubular liner hanger 4506 thereby radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular liner hanger. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular liner hanger 4506 is radially expanded and plastically deformed into engagement with the casing 4532. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the tubular liner hanger 4506 due to the operating pressure within the tubular liner hanger generated by the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the tubular liner hanger 4506 due to the operating pressure within the tubular liner hanger below the packer cup 4520 generated by the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4536. In this manner, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is

pulled through the tubular liner hanger 4506 by the operation of the packer cup 4520. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the tubular liner hanger 4506 thereby radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular liner hanger until the internal flange 4504i of the outer tubular mandrel 4504 engages the external flange 4516a of the end of the inner tubular mandrel 4516.

[00359] Referring to Fig. 45g, in an exemplary embodiment, the 4504, due to the engagement of the internal flange 4504i of the outer tubular mandrel 4504 with the external flange 4516a of the end of the inner tubular mandrel 4516, the inner tubular mandrel and the SSR plug set 4526 may be removed from the wellbore 4528. As a result, the tubular liner 4508 is suspended within the wellbore 4528 by virtue of the engagement of the tubular liner hanger 4506 with the wellbore casing 4532.

[00360] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, a hardenable fluidic sealing material such as, for example, cement, may injected through the system 4500 before, during or after the radial expansion of the liner hanger 4506 in order to form an annular barrier between the wellbore 4528 and the tubular liner 4508.

[00361] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, the size of the adjustable expansion device 4524 is increased prior to, during, or after the hydroforming expansion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 caused by the injection of the fluidic materials 4536 into the interior of the tubular liner hanger.

[00362] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 includes a plurality of nested expandable tubular members bonded together by, for example, amorphous bonding.

[00363] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 is fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations such as, for example, aluminum and/or copper based materials and alloys.

[00364] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, the portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 positioned below the adjustable expansion device 4524 is radially expanded and plastically deformed by displacing the adjustable expansion device downwardly.

[00365] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 is fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations such as, for example, aluminum and/or copper based materials and alloys. In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, the portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations is not hydroformed by the injection of the fluidic materials 4536.

[00366] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, at least a portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 is hydroformed by the injection of the fluidic materials 4536, the remaining portion of the tubular liner hanger above the initial position of the adjustable expansion device 4524 is then radially expanded and plastically deformed by displacing the adjustable expansion device upwardly, and the portion of the tubular liner hanger below the initial position of the adjustable expansion device is radially expanded by then displacing the adjustable expansion device downwardly.

[00367] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, the portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 that is radially expanded and plastically deformed is radially expanded and plastically deformed solely by hydroforming caused by the injection of the fluidic materials 4536.

[00368] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4500, the portion of the tubular liner hanger 4506 that is radially expanded and plastically deformed is radially expanded and plastically deformed solely by the adjustment of the adjustable expansion device 4524 to an increased size and the subsequent displacement of the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner hanger.

[00369] Referring to Fig. 46a, an exemplary embodiment of a system 4600 for radially expanding a tubular member includes a tubular support member 4602 that defines a passage 4602a. An end of a conventional tubular safety sub 4604 that defines a passage 4604a is coupled to an end of the tubular support member 4602, and another end of the safety sub 4604 is coupled to an end of a tubular casing lock assembly 4606 that defines a passage 4606a.

[0003] In several exemplary embodiments, the lock assembly 4606 may be a conventional locking device for locking the position of a tubular member relative to another member. In several alternative embodiments, the lock assembly 4606 may include one or more elements of the locking assemblies disclosed in one or more of the following: (1) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36157, attorney docket number 25791.87.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (2) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36267, attorney docket number 25791.88.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (3) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/04837, attorney docket number 25791.95.02, filed on 2/29/2003, (4) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29859, attorney docket no. 25791.102.02, filed on 9/22/2003, (5) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/14153, attorney docket number 25791.104.02, filed on 11/13/2003, (6) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/18530, attorney docket number 25791.108.02, filed on 6/11/2003, (7) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29858, attorney docket number 25791.112.02, (8) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29460, attorney docket number 25791.114.02, filed on 9/23/2003, filed on 9/22/2003, (9) PCT patent application serial number

PCT/US04/07711, attorney docket number 25791.253.02, filed on 3/11/2004, (10) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/009434, attorney docket number 25791.260.02, filed on 3/26/2004, (11) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010317, attorney docket number 25791.270.02, filed on 4/2/2004, (12) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010712, attorney docket number 25791.272.02, filed on 4/7/2004, (13) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010762, attorney docket number 25791.273.02, filed on 4/6/2004, and/or (14) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/011973, attorney docket number 25791.277.02, filed on April 15, 2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0004] A end of a tubular support member 4608 that defines a passage 4608a and includes an outer annular recess 4608b is coupled to another end of the lock assembly 4606, and another end of the tubular support member 4608 is coupled to an end of a tubular support member 4610 that defines a passage 4610a, a radial passage 4610b, and includes an outer annular recess 4610c, an inner annular recess 4610d, and circumferentially spaced apart teeth 4610e at another end.

[0005] An adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 is mounted upon and coupled to the outer annular recess 4610c of the tubular support member 4610. In several exemplary embodiments, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 may be a conventional adjustable expansion device assembly for radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members that may include one or more elements of conventional adjustable expansion cones, mandrels, rotary expansion devices, hydroforming expansion devices and/or one or more elements of the one or more of the commercially available adjustable expansion devices of Enventure Global Technology LLC, Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, and/or Schlumberger and/or one or more elements of the adjustable expansion devices disclosed in one or more of the published patent applications and/or issued patents of Enventure Global Technology LLC, Baker Hughes, Weatherford International, Shell Oil Co. and/or Schlumberger. In several alternative embodiments, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4524 may include one or more elements of the adjustable expansion device assemblies disclosed in one or more of the following: (1) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36157, attorney docket number 25791.87.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (2) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US02/36267, attorney docket number 25791.88.02, filed on 11/12/2002, (3) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/04837, attorney docket number 25791.95.02, filed on 2/29/2003, (4) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29859, attorney docket no. 25791.102.02, filed on 9/22/2003, (5) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/14153, attorney docket number 25791.104.02, filed on 11/13/2003, (6) PCT patent application serial number

PCT/US03/18530, attorney docket number 25791.108.02, filed on 6/11/2003, (7) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29858, attorney docket number 25791.112.02, (8) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US03/29460, attorney docket number 25791.114.02, filed on 9/23/2003, filed on 9/22/2003, (9) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US04/07711, attorney docket number 25791.253.02, filed on 3/11/2004, (10) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/009434, attorney docket number 25791.260.02, filed on 3/26/2004, (11) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010317, attorney docket number 25791.270.02, filed on 4/2/2004, (12) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010712, attorney docket number 25791.272.02, filed on 4/7/2004, (13) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/010762, attorney docket number 25791.273.02, filed on 4/6/2004, and/or (14) PCT patent application serial number PCT/US2004/011973, attorney docket number 25791.277.02, filed on April 15, 2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[00370] An end of a float shoe 4614 that defines a passage 4614a having a throat 4614aa and includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart teeth 4614b at an end that mate with and engage the teeth 4610e of the tubular support member 4610 for transmitting torsional loads therebetween and an external threaded connection 4614c is received within the inner annular recess 4610d of the tubular support member.

[00371] An end of an expandable tubular member 4616 is coupled to the external threaded connection 4614c of the float shoe 4614 and another portion of the expandable tubular member is coupled to the lock assembly 4606. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 includes one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application. In an exemplary embodiment, the portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 proximate and positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 includes an outer expansion limiter sleeve 4618 for limiting the amount of radial expansion of the portion of the expandable tubular member proximate and positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the outer expansion limiter sleeve 4618 includes one or more of the characteristics of the expandable tubular members described in the present application.

[00372] A cup seal assembly 4620 is coupled to and positioned within the outer annular recess 4608b of the tubular support member 4608 for sealingly engaging the interior surface of the expandable tubular member 4616. A rupture disc 4622 is positioned within and coupled to the radial passage 4610b of the tubular support member 4610.

[00373] In an exemplary embodiment, during operation of the system 4600, as illustrated in Fig. 46a, the system is positioned within a wellbore 4624 that traverses a

subterranean formation 4626 and includes a preexisting wellbore casing 4628 coupled to and positioned within the wellbore. In an exemplary embodiment, the system 4600 is positioned such that the expandable tubular member 4616 overlaps with the casing 4628.

[00374] Referring to Fig. 46b, in an exemplary embodiment, a plug 4630 is then positioned in the throat passage 4614aa of the float shoe 4614 by injecting fluidic materials 4632 into the system 4600 through the passages 4602a, 4604a, 4606a, 4608a, and 4610a, of the tubular support member 4602, safety sub 4604, lock assembly 4606, tubular support member 4608, and tubular support member 4610, respectively.

[00375] Referring to Fig. 46c, in an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the system 4600, following the placement of the plug 4630 in the throat passage 4614aa, pressurizes the passage 4610a of the tubular support member 4610 such that the rupture disc 4622 is ruptured thereby permitting the fluidic materials to pass through the radial passage 4610b of the tubular support member. As a result, the interior of the expandable tubular member 4616 proximate the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 is pressurized.

[00376] Referring to Fig. 45d, in an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the interior of the expandable tubular member 4616 radially expands and plastically deforms at least a portion of the expandable tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the interior of the expandable tubular member 4616 radially expands and plastically deforms a portion of the expandable tubular member positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612. In an exemplary embodiment, the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the interior of the expandable tubular member 4616 radially expands and plastically deforms a portion of the expandable tubular member positioned in opposition to the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 into engagement with the wellbore casing 4628. In an exemplary embodiment, the transformation of the material properties of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618, during the radial expansion process, limit the extent to which the expandable tubular member 4616 may be radially expanded.

[00377] Referring to Fig. 46e, in an exemplary embodiment, the size of the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 is then increased within the radially expanded portion of the expandable tubular member 4616, and the lock assembly 4606 is operated to unlock the expandable tubular member from engagement with the lock assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the lock assembly 4606 and the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 are operated using the operating pressure provided by the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the system 4600. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustment of the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 to a larger size radially expands and plastically deforms at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616.

[00378] Referring to Fig. 46f, in an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the expandable tubular member 4616 thereby radially expanding and plastically deforming the expandable tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandable tubular member 4616 is radially expanded and plastically deformed into engagement with the casing 4628. In an exemplary embodiment, the adjustable expansion device assembly 4612 is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the expandable tubular member 4616 due to the operating pressure within the expandable tubular member generated by the continued injection of the fluidic materials 4632.

[00379] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, a hardenable fluidic sealing material such as, for example, cement, may injected through the system 4600 before, during or after the radial expansion of the expandable tubular member 4616 in order to form an annular barrier between the wellbore 4624 and/or the wellbore casing 4628 and the expandable tubular member.

[00380] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, the size of the adjustable expansion device 4612 is increased prior to, during, or after the hydroforming expansion of the expandable tubular member 4616 caused by the injection of the fluidic materials 4632 into the interior of the expandable tubular member.

[00381] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 includes a plurality of nested expandable tubular members bonded together by, for example, amorphous bonding.

[00382] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 is fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations such as, for example, aluminum and/or copper based materials and alloys.

[00383] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, the portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 positioned below the adjustable expansion device 4612 is radially expanded and plastically deformed by displacing the adjustable expansion device downwardly.

[00384] In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 is fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations such as, for example, aluminum and/or copper based materials and alloys. In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, the portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 fabricated for materials particularly suited for subsequent drilling out operations is not hydroformed by the injection of the fluidic materials 4632.

[00385] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 is hydroformed by the injection of the fluidic materials 4632, the remaining portion of the expandable tubular member above

the initial position of the adjustable expansion device 4612 is then radially expanded and plastically deformed by displacing the adjustable expansion device upwardly, and the portion of the expandable tubular member below the initial position of the adjustable expansion device is radially expanded by then displacing the adjustable expansion device downwardly.

[00386] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, the portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 that is radially expanded and plastically deformed is radially expanded and plastically deformed solely by hydroforming caused by the injection of the fluidic materials 4632.

[00387] In several alternative embodiments, during the operation of the system 4600, the portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 that is radially expanded and plastically deformed is radially expanded and plastically deformed solely by the adjustment of the adjustable expansion device 4612 to an increased size and the subsequent displacement of the adjustable expansion device relative to the expandable tubular member.

[00388] In an exemplary experimental embodiment, expandable tubular members fabricated from tellurium copper, leaded naval brass, phosphorous bronze, and aluminum-silicon bronze were successfully hydroformed and thereby radially expanded and plastically deformed by up to about 30% radial expansion, all of which were unexpected results.

[00389] Referring to Fig. 46g, in an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve by operation of the system 4600, includes one or more diamond shaped slots 4618a. Referring to Fig. 46h, in an exemplary embodiment, during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve by operation of the system 4600, the diamond shaped slots 4618a are deformed such that further radial expansion of the expansion limiter sleeve requires increased force. More generally, the expansion limiter sleeve 4618 may be manufactured with slots whose cross sectional areas are decreased by the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limited sleeve thereby increasing the amount of force required to further radially expand the expansion limiter sleeve. In this manner, the extent to which the expandable tubular member 4616 may be radially expanded is limited. In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 includes slots whose cross sectional areas are decreased by the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expandable tubular member thereby increasing the amount of force required to further radially expand the expandable tubular member.

[00390] Referring to Figs. 46i and 46ia, in an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve by operation of the system 4600, includes one or more wavy circumferentially oriented spaced apart bands 4618b. Referring to Fig. 46j, in an

exemplary embodiment, during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the expansion limiter sleeve by operation of the system 4600, the bands 4618b are deformed such that the further radial expansion of the expansion limiter sleeve requires added force. More generally, the expansion limiter sleeve 4618 may be manufactured with a circumferential bands whose orientation becomes more and more aligned with a direction that is orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the sectional areas as a result of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the bands thereby increasing the amount of force required to further radially expand the expansion limiter sleeve. In this manner, the extent to which the expandable tubular member 4616 may be radially expanded is limited. In several alternative embodiments, at least a portion of the expandable tubular member 4616 includes circumferential bands whose orientation becomes more and more aligned with a direction that is orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the sectional areas as a result of the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the bands thereby increasing the amount of force required to further radially expand the expandable tubular member.

[00391] In several exemplary embodiments, the design of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618 provides a restraining force that limits the extent to which the expandable tubular member 4616 may be radially expanded and plastically deformed. Furthermore, in several exemplary embodiments, the design of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618 provides a variable restraining force that limits the extent to which the expandable tubular member 4616 may be radially expanded and plastically deformed. In several exemplary embodiments, the variable restraining force of the expansion limiter sleeve 4618 increases in proportion to the degree to which the expandable tubular member 4616 has been radially expanded.

[00392] A radially expandable multiple tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; the sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent tubular member; and one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve includes a flange at each tapered end and each tapered end is formed on a respective flange. In an exemplary embodiment, each tubular member includes a recess. In an exemplary embodiment, each flange is engaged in a respective one of the recesses. In an exemplary embodiment, each recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges.

[00393] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has also been described that includes providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve having opposite

tapered ends and a flange, one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange; and mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint, wherein the flange is engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent one of the tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes providing a tapered wall in the recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes providing a flange at each tapered end wherein each tapered end is formed on a respective flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes providing a recess in each tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes engaging each flange in a respective one of the recesses. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes providing a tapered wall in each recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges.

[00394] A radially expandable multiple tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; and a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein at least a portion of the sleeve is comprised of a frangible material.

[00395] A radially expandable multiple tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; and a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein the wall thickness of the sleeve is variable.

[00396] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve comprising a frangible material; and mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint.

[00397] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve comprising a variable wall thickness; and mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint.

[00398] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; and means for increasing the axial compression loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00399] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; and means for increasing the axial tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00400] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; and means for increasing the axial compression and tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00401] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; and means for avoiding stress risers in the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00402] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; and means for inducing stresses at selected portions of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00403] In several exemplary embodiments of the apparatus described above, the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

[00404] In several exemplary embodiments of the method described above, the method further includes maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression before, during, and/or after the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00405] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member, a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member, a first threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members, a second threaded connection spaced apart from the first threaded connection for coupling another portion of the first and second tubular members, a tubular sleeve coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members, and a sealing element positioned between the first and second spaced apart threaded connections for sealing an interface between the first and second tubular member, wherein the sealing element is positioned within an annulus defined between the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the annulus is at least partially defined by an irregular surface. In

an exemplary embodiment, the annulus is at least partially defined by a toothed surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises a metallic material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material.

[00406] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member, providing a second tubular member, providing a sleeve, mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members, threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location, threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location, and sealing an interface between the first and second tubular members between the first and second locations using a compressible sealing element. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element includes an irregular surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element includes a toothed surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises a metallic material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material.

[00407] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member, a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member, a first threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members, a second threaded connection spaced apart from the first threaded connection for coupling another portion of the first and second tubular members, and a plurality of spaced apart tubular sleeves coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the first threaded connection; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded connection. In an exemplary embodiment, at least one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded connections.

[00408] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member, providing a second tubular member, threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location, threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location, providing a plurality of sleeves, and mounting the sleeves at spaced apart locations for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the first threaded coupling; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded coupling. In an exemplary embodiment, at least

one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded couplings.

[00409] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member, a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member, and a plurality of spaced apart tubular sleeves coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members.

[00410] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member, providing a second tubular member, providing a plurality of sleeves, coupling the first and second tubular members, and mounting the sleeves at spaced apart locations for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members.

[00411] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member, a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member, a threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members, and a tubular sleeves coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members, wherein at least a portion of the threaded connection is upset. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of tubular sleeve penetrates the first tubular member.

[00412] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member, providing a second tubular member, threadably coupling the first and second tubular members, and upsetting the threaded coupling. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom, and the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom; and the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member.

[00413] A radially expandable multiple tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member, a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint, a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint, and one or more stress concentrators for concentrating stresses in the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and one or more of the stress concentrators

comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve.

[00414] A method of joining radially expandable multiple tubular members has been described that includes providing a first tubular member, engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint, providing a sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange, one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange, and concentrating stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint.

[00415] A system for radially expanding and plastically deforming a first tubular member coupled to a second tubular member by a mechanical connection has been described that includes means for radially expanding the first and second tubular members, and means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00416] A system for radially expanding and plastically deforming a first tubular member coupled to a second tubular member by a mechanical connection has been

described that includes means for radially expanding the first and second tubular members; and means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00417] A system for radially expanding and plastically deforming a first tubular member coupled to a second tubular member by a mechanical connection has been described that includes means for radially expanding the first and second tubular members; means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members; and means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

[00418] A radially expandable tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; and a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than 0.21. In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than 0.36. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members; and means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes one or more stress concentrators for concentrating stresses in the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the

sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom; and wherein the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes a threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members; wherein at least a portion of the threaded connection is upset. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of tubular sleeve penetrates the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for increasing the axial compression loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for increasing the axial tension loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for increasing the axial compression and tension loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for avoiding stress risers in the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes means for inducing stresses at selected portions of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an

exemplary embodiment, the means for increasing the axial compression loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the means for increasing the axial tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the means for increasing the axial compression and tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the means for avoiding stress risers in the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the means for inducing stresses at selected portions of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the sleeve is comprised of a frangible material. In an exemplary embodiment, the wall thickness of the sleeve is variable. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes positioning another apparatus within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation

to the apparatus; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other apparatus within the preexisting structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the other apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the other apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the apparatus is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of other portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic

deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield

point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a structural support.

[00419] A radially expandable tubular member apparatus has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; the sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent tubular member; and one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange; wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve includes a flange at each tapered end and each tapered end is formed on a respective flange. In an exemplary embodiment, each tubular member includes a recess. In an exemplary embodiment, each flange is engaged in a respective one of the recesses. In an exemplary embodiment, each recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary

embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus further includes positioning another apparatus within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the apparatus; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other apparatus within the preexisting structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the other apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the other apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the apparatus is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of other portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 %

C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic

deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a structural support.

[00420] A method of joining radially expandable tubular members has been provided that includes: providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint; wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less than 0.21. In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less

than 0.36. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: concentrating stresses within the joint during a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members; and concentrating stresses within the joint during a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: concentrating stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of the sleeve is comprised of a frangible material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve comprises a variable wall thickness. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location; threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location; providing a plurality of sleeves; and mounting the sleeves at spaced apart locations for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in

opposing relation to the first threaded coupling; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded coupling. In an exemplary embodiment, at least one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: threadably coupling the first and second tubular members; and upsetting the threaded coupling. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom; and wherein the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment; the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of

tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly,

prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion

and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a structural support.

[00421] A method of joining radially expandable tubular members has been described that includes: providing a first tubular member; engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint; providing a sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange, one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint, wherein the flange is engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent one of the tubular members; wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: providing a tapered wall in the recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: providing a flange at each tapered end wherein each tapered end is formed on a respective flange. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: providing a recess in each tubular member. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: engaging each flange in a respective one of the recesses. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: providing a tapered wall in each recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting

structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic

deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular

assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a structural support.

[00422] An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a first tubular member; a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member; a first threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members; a second threaded connection spaced apart from the first threaded connection for coupling another portion of the first and second tubular members; a tubular sleeve coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members; and a sealing element positioned between the first and second spaced apart threaded connections for sealing an interface between the first and second tubular member; wherein the sealing element is positioned within an annulus defined between the first and second tubular members; and wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the assembly, a predetermined portion of the assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and

plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the assembly further includes: positioning another assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other assembly within the preexisting structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the assembly, a predetermined portion of the other assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises an end portion of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the assembly comprises an end portion of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment,

the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the

predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the assembly comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the assembly comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the assembly comprises a structural support. In an exemplary embodiment, the annulus is at least partially defined by an irregular surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the annulus is at least partially defined by a toothed surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises a metallic material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material.

[00423] A method of joining radially expandable tubular members is provided that includes providing a first tubular member; providing a second tubular member; providing a sleeve; mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members; threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location; threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location; sealing an interface between the first and second tubular members between the first and second locations using a compressible sealing element, wherein the

first tubular member, second tubular member, sleeve, and the sealing element define a tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element includes an irregular surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element includes a toothed surface. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises a metallic material. In an exemplary embodiment, the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes: positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting structure; wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly

comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings. In an exemplary embodiment, one or more of the openings comprise slots. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1. In an exemplary embodiment, the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined

portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34. In an exemplary embodiment, the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92. In an exemplary embodiment, the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined

portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12. In an exemplary embodiment, the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular assembly comprises a structural support. In an exemplary embodiment, the sleeve comprises: a plurality of spaced apart tubular sleeves coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member comprises a first threaded connection; wherein the second tubular member comprises a second threaded connection; wherein the first and second threaded connections are coupled to one another; wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the first threaded connection; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded connection. In an exemplary embodiment, the first tubular member comprises a first threaded connection; wherein the second tubular member comprises a second threaded connection; wherein the first and second threaded connections are coupled to one another; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded connections. In an exemplary embodiment, the carbon content of the tubular member is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the tubular member is less than 0.21. In an exemplary embodiment, the tubular member comprises a wellbore casing.

[00424] It is understood that variations may be made in the foregoing without departing from the scope of the invention. For example, the teachings of the present illustrative embodiments may be used to provide a wellbore casing, a pipeline, or a structural support. Furthermore, the elements and teachings of the various illustrative embodiments may be combined in whole or in part in some or all of the illustrative embodiments. In addition, one or more of the elements and teachings of the various illustrative embodiments may be omitted, at least in part, and/or combined, at least in part, with one or more of the other elements and teachings of the various illustrative embodiments.

[00425] Although illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, a wide range of modification, changes and substitution is contemplated in the foregoing disclosure. In some instances, some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use of the other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A radially expandable tubular member apparatus comprising:
   a first tubular member;
   a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint; and
   a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint;
   wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:
   positioning another apparatus within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the apparatus; and
   radially expanding and plastically deforming the other apparatus within the preexisting structure;
   wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the other apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the other apparatus.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the apparatus is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other apparatus.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the apparatus.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the apparatus.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of other portions of the apparatus.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the apparatus.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the apparatus.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus defines one or more openings.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1.

21. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1.

22. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12.

23. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12.

24. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

28. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

29. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

31. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

32. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

34. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

36. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

37. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

38. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

39. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

40. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

41. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

42. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

43. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

44. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

45. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

46. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

47. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the apparatus.

48. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a wellbore casing.

49. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a pipeline.

50. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a structural support.

51. A radially expandable tubular member apparatus comprising:
a first tubular member;
a second tubular member engaged with the first tubular member forming a joint;
a sleeve overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint;
the sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent tubular member; and
one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange;
wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

52. The apparatus as defined in claim 51 wherein the recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange.

53. The apparatus as defined in claim 51 wherein the sleeve includes a flange at each tapered end and each tapered end is formed on a respective flange.

54. The apparatus as defined in claim 53 wherein each tubular member includes a recess.

55. The apparatus as defined in claim 54 wherein each flange is engaged in a respective one of the recesses.

56. The apparatus as defined in claim 55 wherein each recess includes a tapered wall in mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges.

57. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

58. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

59. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

60. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly.

61. The apparatus of claim 60, further comprising:
positioning another apparatus within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the apparatus; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the other apparatus within the preexisting structure;
wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the apparatus, a predetermined portion of the other apparatus has a lower yield point than another portion of the other apparatus.

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the apparatus is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other apparatus.

63. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus.

64. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the apparatus.

65. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the apparatus.

66. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises an end portion of the apparatus.

67. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of other portions of the apparatus.

68. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the other portion of the apparatus comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the apparatus.

69. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

70. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the apparatus.

71. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus.

72. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the apparatus.

73. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus defines one or more openings.

74. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

75. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1.

76. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1.

77. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12.

78. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12.

79. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

80. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

81. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

82. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

83. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

84. The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

85. The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

86. The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

87. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

88. The apparatus of claim 87, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

89. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the predetermined portion of the apparatus comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

90. The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

91. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

92. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

93. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

94. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

95. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

96. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

97. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

98. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

99. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

100. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

101. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

102. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the apparatus.

103. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus comprises a wellbore casing.

104. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus comprises a pipeline.

105. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus comprises a structural support.

106. A method of joining radially expandable tubular members comprising:

providing a first tubular member;

engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint;

providing a sleeve;

mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint;

wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly;

wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

107. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

108. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

109. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

110. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly.

111. The method of claim 110, further comprising:

positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting structure;

wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly.

112. The method of claim 111, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly.

113. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

114. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

115. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

116. The method of claim 106, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

117. The method of claim 106, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly.

118. The method of claim 106, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly.

119. The method of claim 106, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

120. The method of claim 119, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly.

121. The method of claim 119, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

122. The method of claim 119, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

123. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings.

124. The method of claim 123, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

125. The method of claim 123, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

126. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

127. The method of claim 106, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

128. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

129. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

130. The method of claim 129, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

131. The method of claim 129, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

132. The method of claim 129, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

133. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

134. The method of claim 133, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

135. The method of claim 134, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

136. The method of claim 133, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

137. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

138. The method of claim 137, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

139. The method of claim 106, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

140. The method of claim 139, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

141. The method of claim 106, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

142. The method of claim 106, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

143. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

144. The method of claim 106, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

145. The method of claim 106, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

146. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

147. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

148. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

149. The method of claim 106, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

150. The method of claim 106, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

151. The method of claim 106, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

152. The method of claim 106, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly.

153. The method of claim 106, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing.

154. The method of claim 106, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline.

155. The method of claim 106, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a structural support.

156. A method of joining radially expandable tubular members comprising:
providing a first tubular member;
engaging a second tubular member with the first tubular member to form a joint;
providing a sleeve having opposite tapered ends and a flange, one of the tapered ends being a surface formed on the flange;
mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members at the joint, wherein the flange is engaged in a recess formed in an adjacent one of the tubular members;
wherein the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve define a tubular assembly; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly;
wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

157. The method as defined in claim 156, further comprising:
providing a tapered wall in the recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on the flange.

158. The method as defined in claim 156, further comprising:
providing a flange at each tapered end wherein each tapered end is formed on a respective flange.

159. The method as defined in claim 158, further comprising:
providing a recess in each tubular member.

160. The method as defined in claim 159, further comprising:
engaging each flange in a respective one of the recesses.

161. The method as defined in claim 160, further comprising:

providing a tapered wall in each recess for mating engagement with the tapered end formed on a respective one of the flanges.

162. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

163. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

164. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

165. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly.

166. The method of claim 165, further comprising:

positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting structure;

wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly.

167. The method of claim 166, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly.

168. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

169. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

170. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

171. The method of claim 156, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

172. The method of claim 156, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly.

173. The method of claim 156, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly.

174. The method of claim 156, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

175. The method of claim 174, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly.

176. The method of claim 174, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

177. The method of claim 174, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

178. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings.

179. The method of claim 178, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

180. The method of claim 178, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

181. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

182. The method of claim 156, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

183. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

184. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

185. The method of claim 184, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

186. The method of claim 184, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

187. The method of claim 184, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

188. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

189. The method of claim 188, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

190. The method of claim 188, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

191. The method of claim 188, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

192. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

193. The method of claim 192, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

194. The method of claim 156, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

195. The method of claim 194, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

196. The method of claim 156, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

197. The method of claim 156, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

198. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

199. The method of claim 156, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

200. The method of claim 156, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

201. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

202. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

203. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

204. The method of claim 156, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

205. The method of claim 156, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

206. The method of claim 156, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

207. The method of claim 156, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly.

208. The method of claim 156, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing.

209. The method of claim 156, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline.

210. The method of claim 156, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a structural support.

211. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sleeve is comprised of a frangible material.

212. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wall thickness of the sleeve is variable.

213. The method of claim 106, wherein at least a portion of the sleeve is comprised of a frangible material.

214. The method of claim 106, wherein the sleeve comprises a variable wall thickness.

215. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for increasing the axial compression loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

216. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for increasing the axial tension loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

217. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for increasing the axial compression and tension loading capacity of the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

218. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for avoiding stress risers in the joint between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

219. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for inducing stresses at selected portions of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

220. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

221. The method of claim 106, further comprising:

maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and

maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression.

222. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

223. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

224. The method of claim 106, further comprising:

maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and

maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression.

225. The method of claim 106, further comprising:

maintaining the sleeve in circumferential tension; and

maintaining the first and second tubular members in circumferential compression.

226. The apparatus of claim 215, wherein the means for increasing the axial compression loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

227. The apparatus of claim 216, wherein the means for increasing the axial tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

228. The apparatus of claim 217, wherein the means for increasing the axial compression and tension loading capacity of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

229. The apparatus of claim 218, wherein the means for avoiding stress risers in the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

230. The apparatus of claim 219, wherein the means for inducing stresses at selected portions of the coupling between the first and second tubular members before and after a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members is circumferentially tensioned; and wherein the first and second tubular members are circumferentially compressed.

231. An expandable tubular assembly, comprising:

a first tubular member;

a second tubular member coupled to the first tubular member;

a first threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members;

a second threaded connection spaced apart from the first threaded connection for coupling another portion of the first and second tubular members;

a tubular sleeve coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members; and

a sealing element positioned between the first and second spaced apart threaded connections for sealing an interface between the first and second tubular member;

wherein the sealing element is positioned within an annulus defined between the first and second tubular members; and

wherein, prior to a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the assembly, a predetermined portion of the assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the apparatus.

232. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

233. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

234. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

235. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than other portions of the tubular assembly.

236. The assembly of claim 235, further comprising:

positioning another assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the assembly; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the other assembly within the preexisting structure;

wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the assembly, a predetermined portion of the other assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other assembly.

237. The assembly of claim 236, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other assembly.

238. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises an end portion of the assembly.

239. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the assembly.

240. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the assembly.

241. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the other portion of the assembly comprises an end portion of the assembly.

242. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the other portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the assembly.

243. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the other portion of the assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the assembly.

244. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

245. The assembly of claim 244, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the assembly.

246. The assembly of claim 244, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly.

247. The assembly of claim 244, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the assembly.

248. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly defines one or more openings.

249. The assembly of claim 248, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

250. The assembly of claim 248, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1.

251. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1.

252. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 0.12.

The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than 0.12.

253. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

254. The assembly of claim 253, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

255. The assembly of claim 253, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

256. The assembly of claim 253, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

257. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

258. The assembly of claim 257, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

259. The assembly of claim 257, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

260. The assembly of claim 257, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

261. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

262. The assembly of claim 261, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

263. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the predetermined portion of the assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

264. The assembly of claim 263, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

265. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

266. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

267. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

268. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

269. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

270. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

271. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

272. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

273. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

274. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

275. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

276. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the assembly.

277. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the assembly comprises a wellbore casing.

278. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the assembly comprises a pipeline.

279. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the assembly comprises a structural support.

280. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the annulus is at least partially defined by an irregular surface.

281. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the annulus is at least partially defined by a toothed surface.

282. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material.

283. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the sealing element comprises a metallic material.

284. The assembly of claim 231, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material.

285. A method of joining radially expandable tubular members comprising:
providing a first tubular member;
providing a second tubular member;
providing a sleeve;
mounting the sleeve for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members;
threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location;
threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location;
sealing an interface between the first and second tubular members between the first and second locations using a compressible sealing element, wherein the first tubular member, second tubular member, sleeve, and the sealing element define a tubular assembly; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular assembly;
wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, a predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the tubular assembly.

286. The method as defined in claim 285 wherein the sealing element includes an irregular surface.

287. The method as defined in claim 285, wherein the sealing element includes a toothed surface.

288. The method as defined in claim 285, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material.

289. The method as defined in claim 285, wherein the sealing element comprises a metallic material.

290. The method as defined in claim 285, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric and a metallic material.

291. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility and a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

292. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a higher ductility prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

293. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a lower yield point prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation than after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

294. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly has a larger inside diameter after the radial expansion and plastic deformation than the other portion of the tubular assembly.

295. The method of claim 285, further comprising:

positioning another tubular assembly within the preexisting structure in overlapping relation to the tubular assembly; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the other tubular assembly within the preexisting structure;

wherein, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the tubular assembly, a predetermined portion of the other tubular assembly has a lower yield point than another portion of the other tubular assembly.

296. The method of claim 295, wherein the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the tubular assembly is equal to the inside diameter of the radially expanded and plastically deformed other portion of the other tubular assembly.

297. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

298. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

299. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

300. The method of claim 285, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises an end portion of the tubular assembly.

301. The method of claim 285, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of other portions of the tubular assembly.

302. The method of claim 285, wherein the other portion of the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart other portions of the tubular assembly.

303. The method of claim 285, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a plurality of tubular members coupled to one another by corresponding tubular couplings.

304. The method of claim 303, wherein the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly; and wherein the tubular members comprise the other portion of the tubular assembly.

305. The method of claim 303, wherein one or more of the tubular couplings comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

306. The method of claim 303, wherein one or more of the tubular members comprise the predetermined portions of the tubular assembly.

307. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly defines one or more openings.

308. The method of claim 307, wherein one or more of the openings comprise slots.

309. The method of claim 593, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

310. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1.

311. The method of claim 285, wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

312. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 1; and wherein the strain hardening exponent for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12.

313. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a first steel alloy comprising: 0.065 % C, 1.44 % Mn, 0.01 % P, 0.002 % S, 0.24 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.02 % Cr.

314. The method of claim 313, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

315. The method of claim 313, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

316. The method of claim 313, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.48.

317. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a second steel alloy comprising: 0.18 % C, 1.28 % Mn, 0.017 % P, 0.004 % S, 0.29 % Si, 0.01 % Cu, 0.01 % Ni, and 0.03 % Cr.

318. The method of claim 317, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic

deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

319. The method of claim 317, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

320. The method of claim 317, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.04.

321. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a third steel alloy comprising: 0.08 % C, 0.82 % Mn, 0.006 % P, 0.003 % S, 0.30 % Si, 0.16 % Cu, 0.05 % Ni, and 0.05 % Cr.

322. The method of claim 321, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.92.

323. The method of claim 285, wherein the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly comprises a fourth steel alloy comprising: 0.02 % C, 1.31 % Mn, 0.02 % P, 0.001 % S, 0.45 % Si, 9.1 % Ni, and 18.7 % Cr.

324. The method of claim 323, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is about 1.34.

325. The method of claim 285, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 46.9 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 65.9 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

326. The method of claim 285, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 40 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

327. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.48.

328. The method of claim 285, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at most about 57.8 ksi prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation; and wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is at least about 74.4 ksi after the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

329. The method of claim 285, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly after the radial expansion and plastic deformation is at least about 28 % greater than the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation.

330. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.04.

331. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.92.

332. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is at least about 1.34.

333. The method of claim 285, wherein the anisotropy of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 1.04 to about 1.92.

334. The method of claim 285, wherein the yield point of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, ranges from about 47.6 ksi to about 61.7 ksi.

335. The method of claim 285, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly, prior to the radial expansion and plastic deformation, is greater than 0.12.

336. The method of claim 285, wherein the expandability coefficient of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than the expandability coefficient of the other portion of the tubular assembly.

337. The method of claim 285, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a wellbore casing.

338. The method of claim 285, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a pipeline.

339. The method of claim 285, wherein the tubular assembly comprises a structural support.

340. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises:

a plurality of spaced apart tubular sleeves coupled to and receiving end portions of the first and second tubular members.

341. The apparatus of claim 340, wherein the first tubular member comprises a first threaded connection; wherein the second tubular member comprises a second threaded connection; wherein the first and second threaded connections are coupled to one another; wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the first threaded connection; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded connection.

342. The apparatus of claim 340, wherein the first tubular member comprises a first threaded connection; wherein the second tubular member comprises a second threaded connection; wherein the first and second threaded connections are coupled to one another; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded connections.

343. The method of claim 106, further comprising:

threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a first location;

threadably coupling the first and second tubular members at a second location spaced apart from the first location;

providing a plurality of sleeves; and

mounting the sleeves at spaced apart locations for overlapping and coupling the first and second tubular members.

344. The method of claim 343, wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the first threaded coupling; and wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is positioned in opposing relation to the second threaded coupling.

345. The method of claim 343, wherein at least one of the tubular sleeves is not positioned in opposing relation to the first and second threaded couplings.

346. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a threaded connection for coupling a portion of the first and second tubular members;
wherein at least a portion of the threaded connection is upset.

347. The apparatus of claim 346, wherein at least a portion of tubular sleeve penetrates the first tubular member.

348. The method of claim 106, further comprising:
threadably coupling the first and second tubular members; and
upsetting the threaded coupling.

349. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom; and wherein the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member.

350. The method of claim 106, wherein the first tubular member further comprises an annular extension extending therefrom; and wherein the flange of the sleeve defines an annular recess for receiving and mating with the annular extension of the first tubular member.

351. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
one or more stress concentrators for concentrating stresses in the joint.

352. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member.

353. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member.

354. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve.

355. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member.

356. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve.

357. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve.

358. The apparatus as defined in claim 351, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more external grooves defined in the first tubular member; wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more internal grooves defined in the second tubular member; and wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprises one or more openings defined in the sleeve.

359. The method of claim 106, further comprising:
concentrating stresses within the joint.

360. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint.

361. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint.

362. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint.

363. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the second tubular member to concentrate stresses within the joint.

364. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint.

365. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the second tubular member and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint.

366. The method as defined in claim 359, wherein concentrating stresses within the joint comprises using the first tubular member, the second tubular member, and the sleeve to concentrate stresses within the joint.

367. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

368. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

369. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
means for maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members; and
means for concentrating stresses within the mechanical connection during the radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

370. The method of claim 106, further comprising:

maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

371. The method of claim 106, further comprising:
concentrating stresses within the joint during a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

372. The method of claim 106, further comprising:
maintaining portions of the first and second tubular member in circumferential compression following a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members; and
concentrating stresses within the joint during a radial expansion and plastic deformation of the first and second tubular members.

373. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than 0.21.

374. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the apparatus is greater than 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the apparatus is less than 0.36.

375. The method of claim 106, wherein the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less than or equal to 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less than 0.21.

376. The method of claim 106, wherein the carbon content of the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is greater than 0.12 percent; and wherein the carbon equivalent value for the predetermined portion of the tubular assembly is less than 0.36.

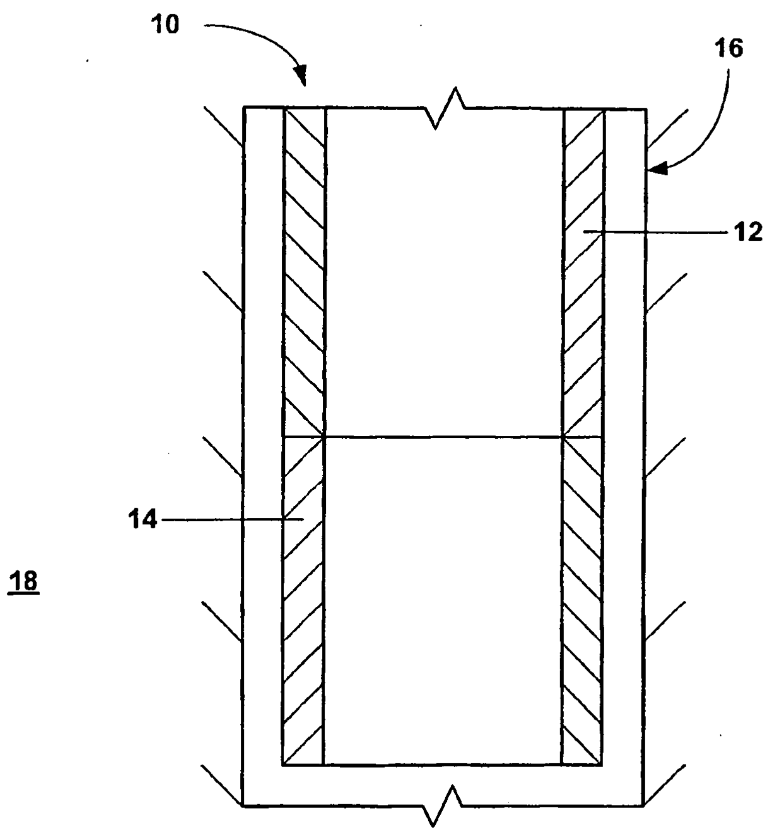


FIG. 1

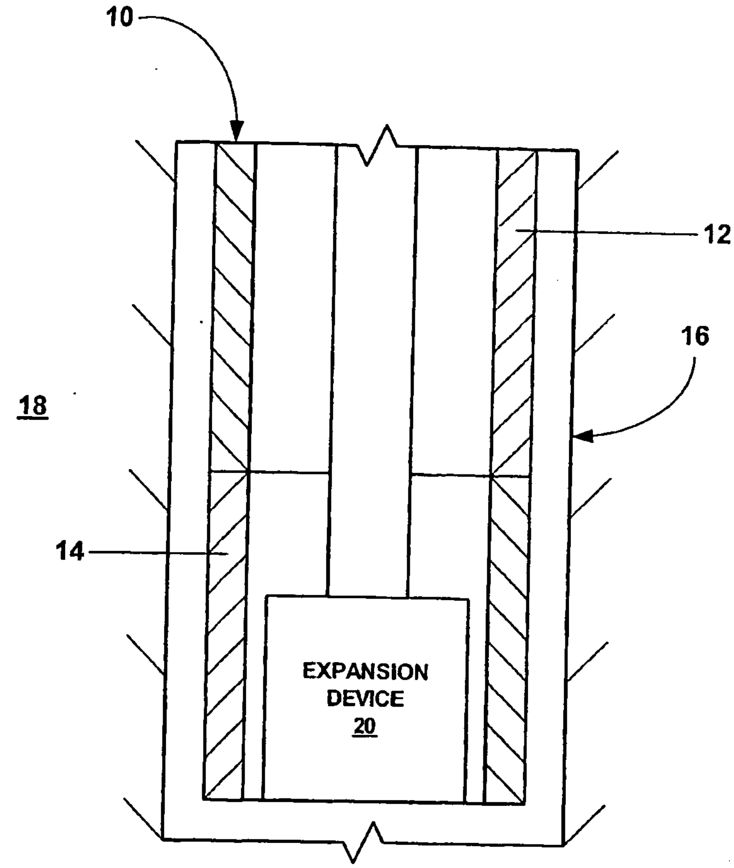


FIG. 2

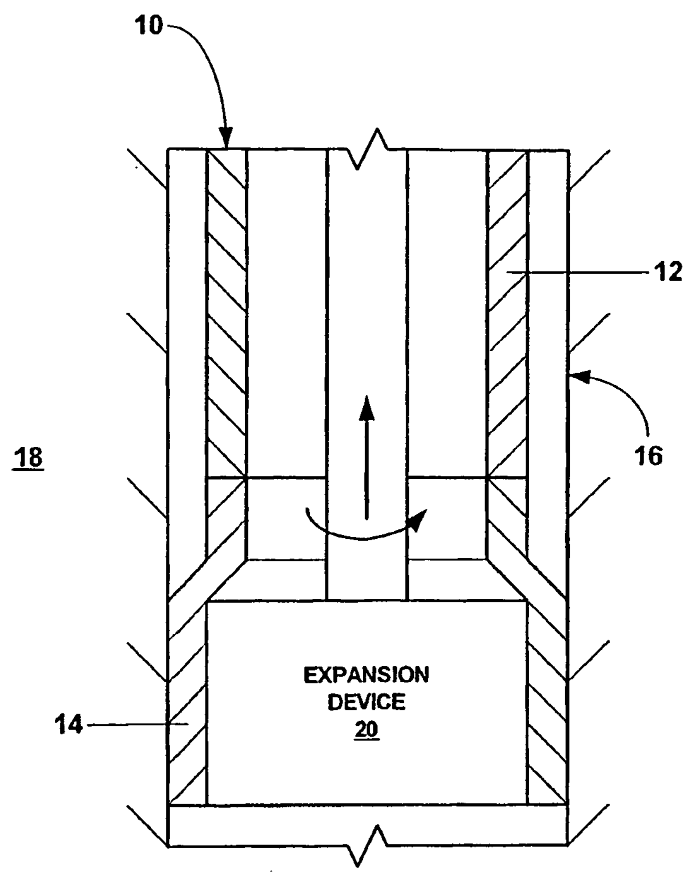


FIG. 3

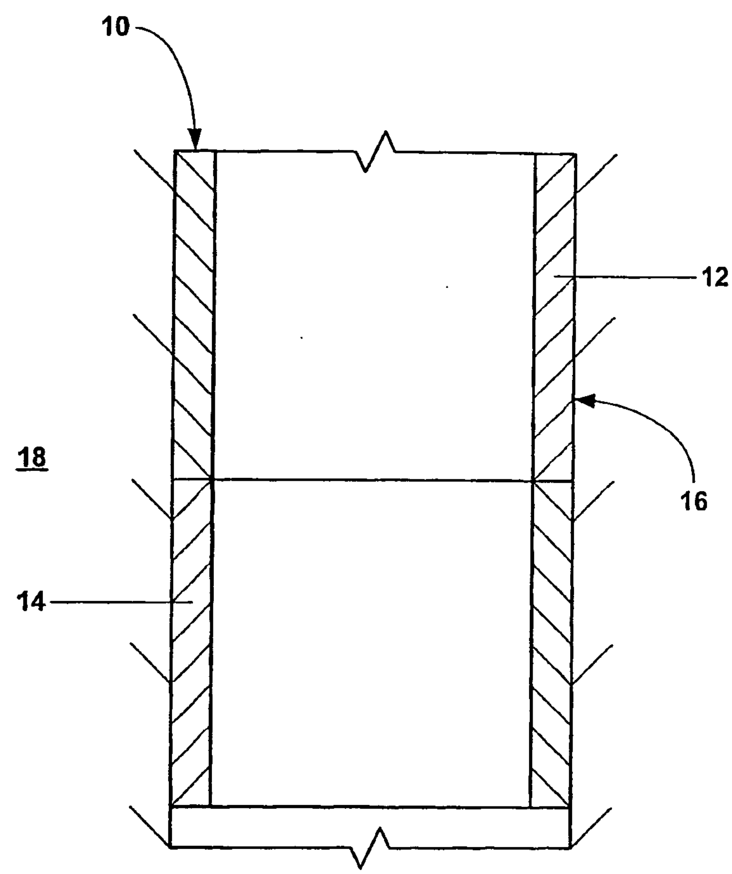


FIG. 4

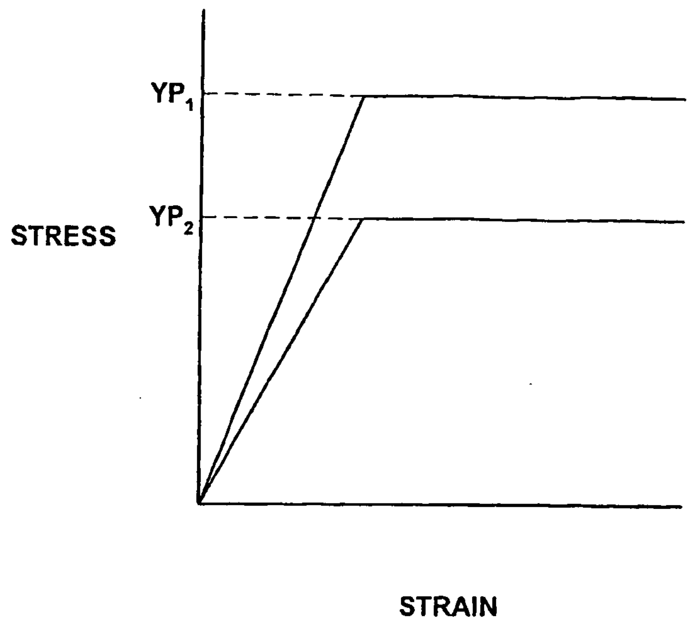

YP1
YP2
STRESS
STRAIN

FIG. 5

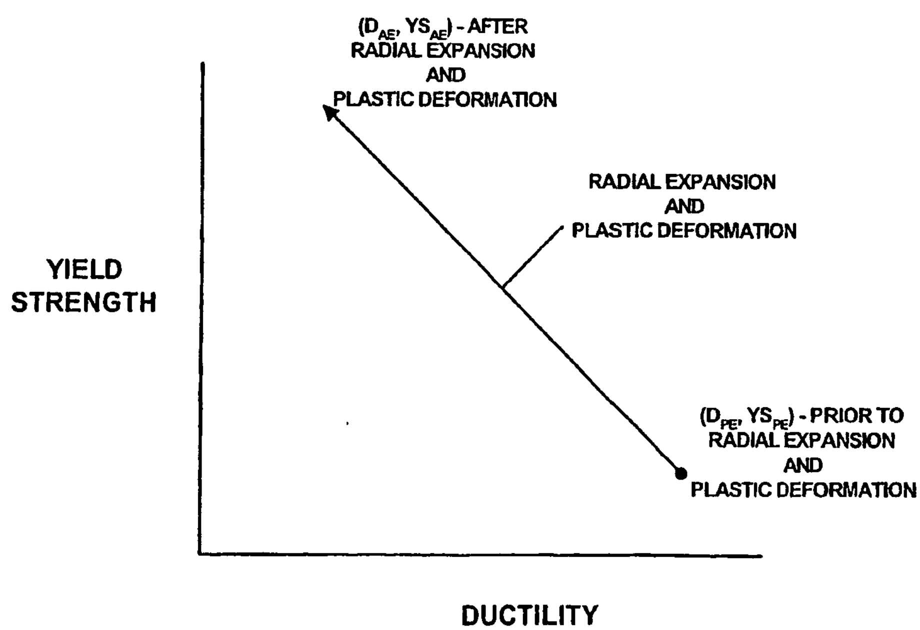

(DAE, YSAE) - AFTER RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
YIELD STRENGTH
(DPE, YSPE) - PRIOR TO RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
DUCTILITY

FIG. 6

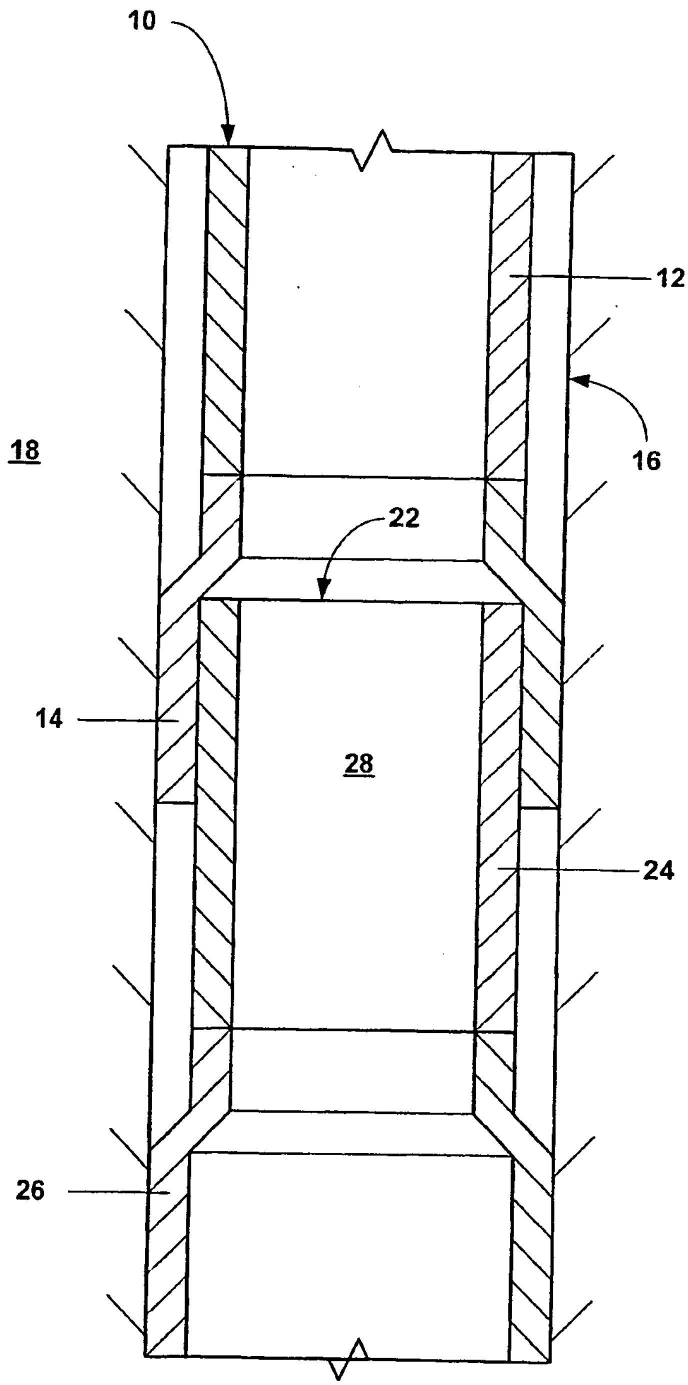


FIG. 7

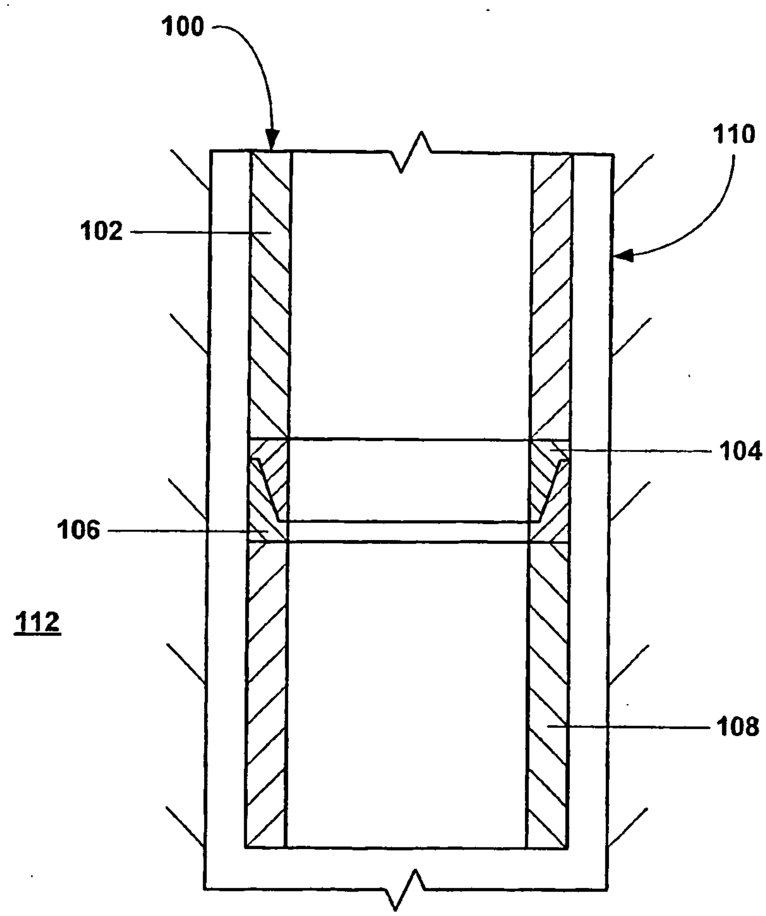


FIG. 8

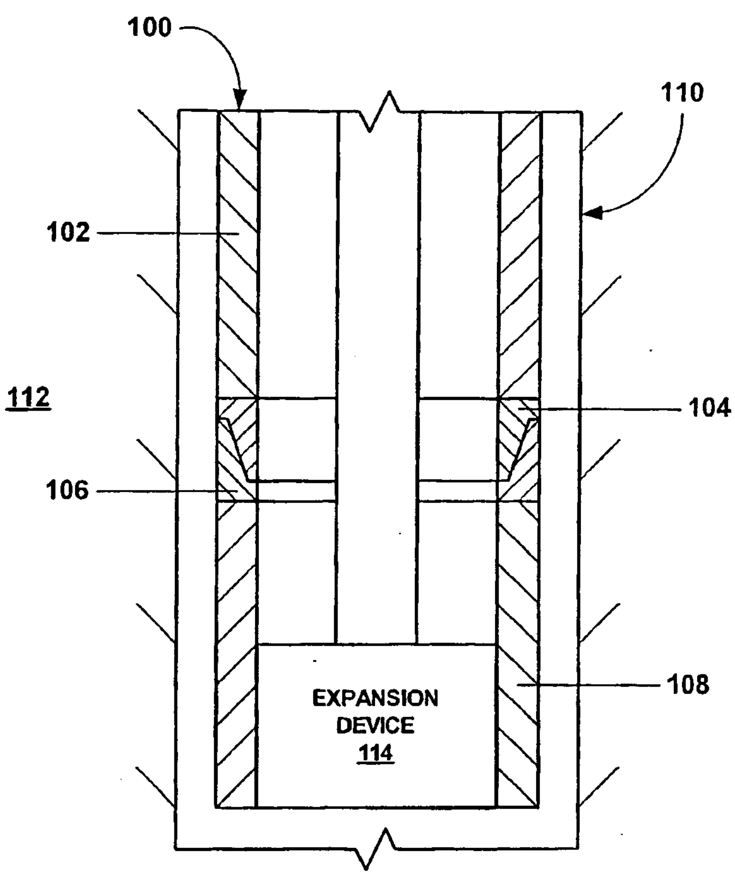


FIG. 9

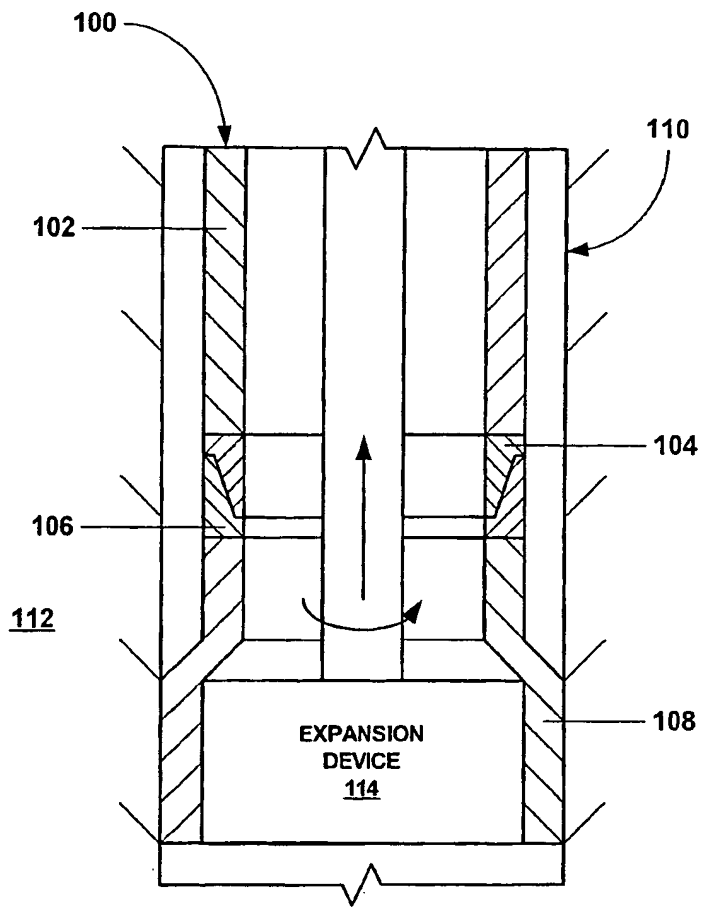


FIG. 10

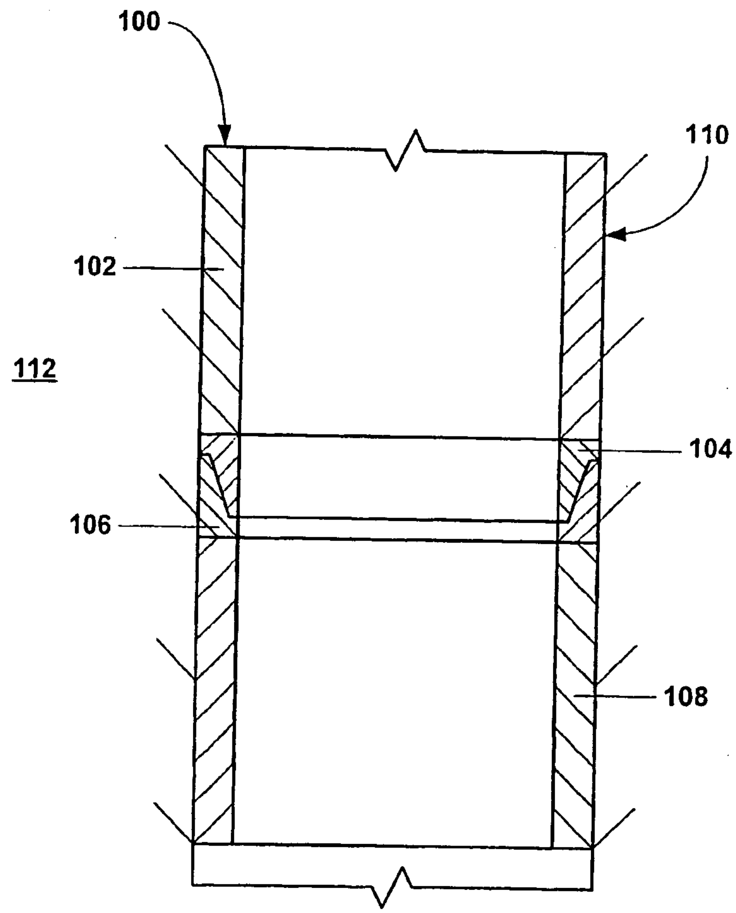


FIG. 11

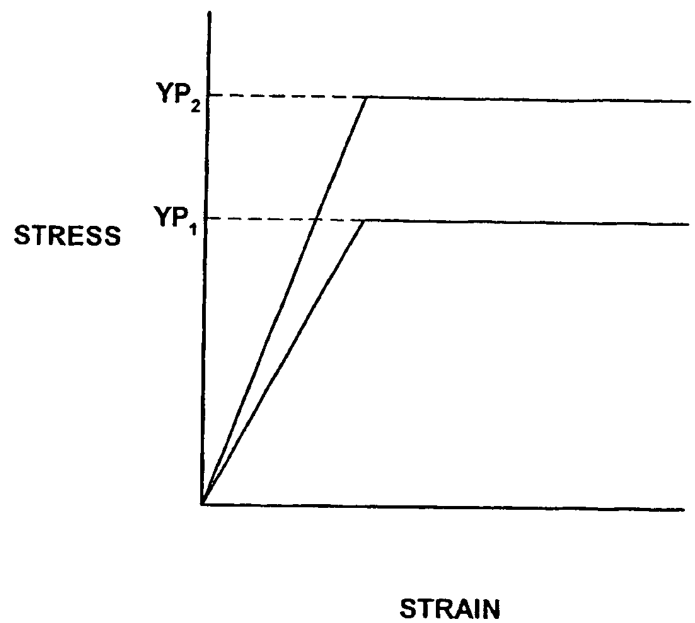

YP$_2$
YP$_1$
STRESS
STRAIN

FIG. 12

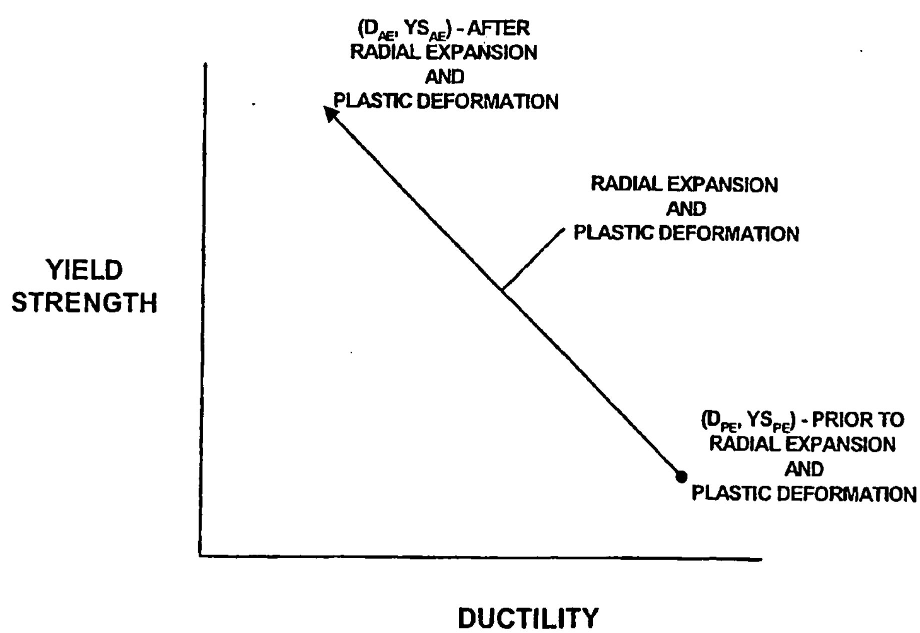

(D_{AE}, YS_{AE}) - AFTER RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
YIELD STRENGTH
(D_{PE}, YS_{PE}) - PRIOR TO RADIAL EXPANSION AND PLASTIC DEFORMATION
DUCTILITY

FIG. 13

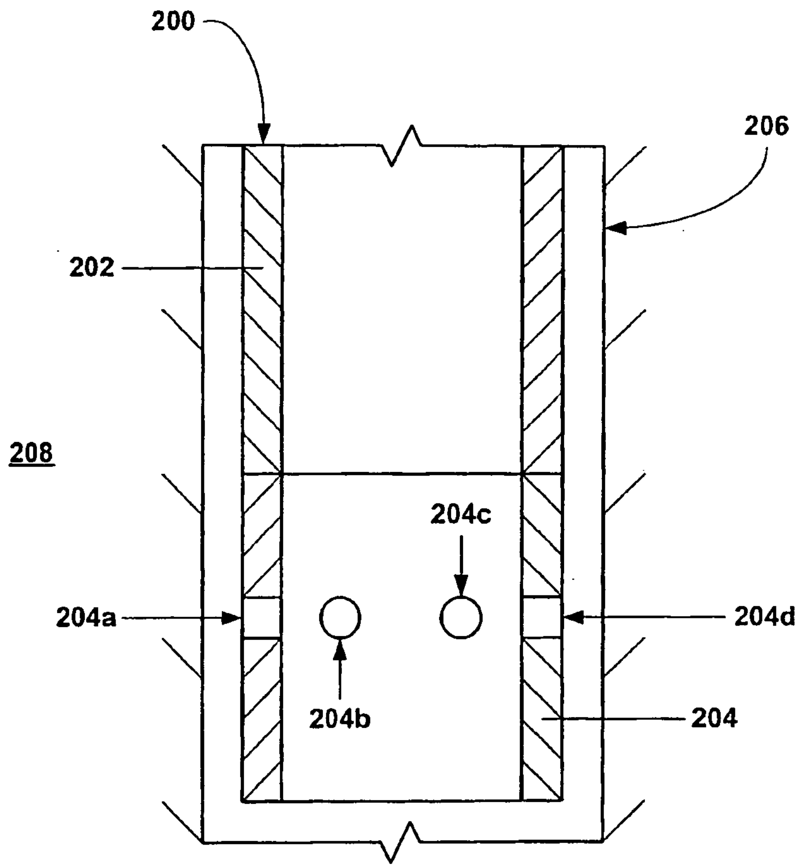


FIG. 14

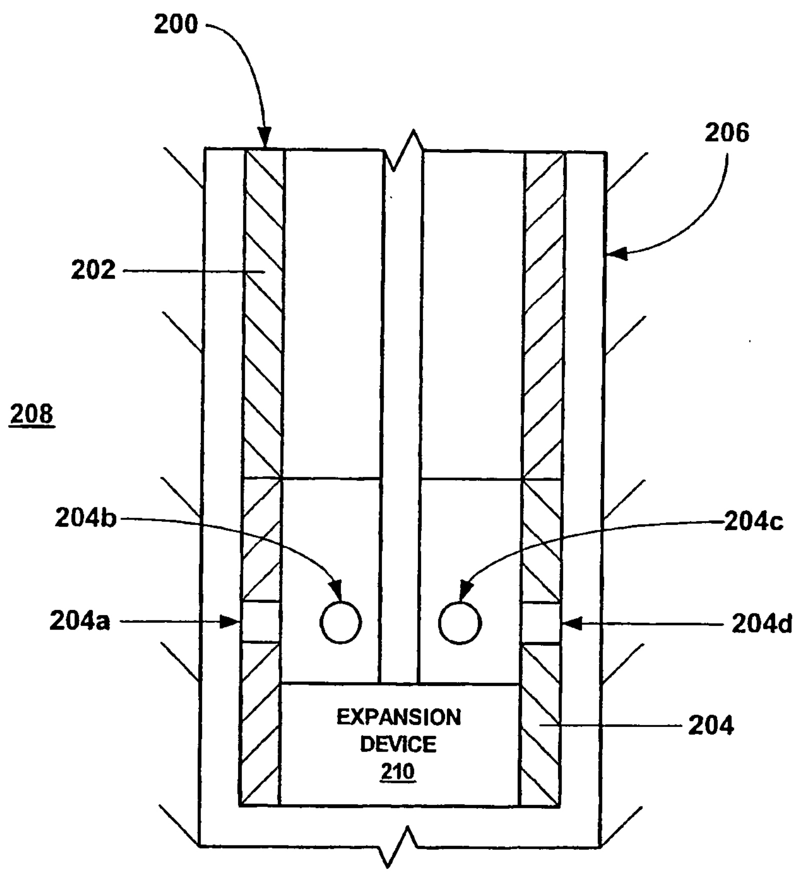


FIG. 15

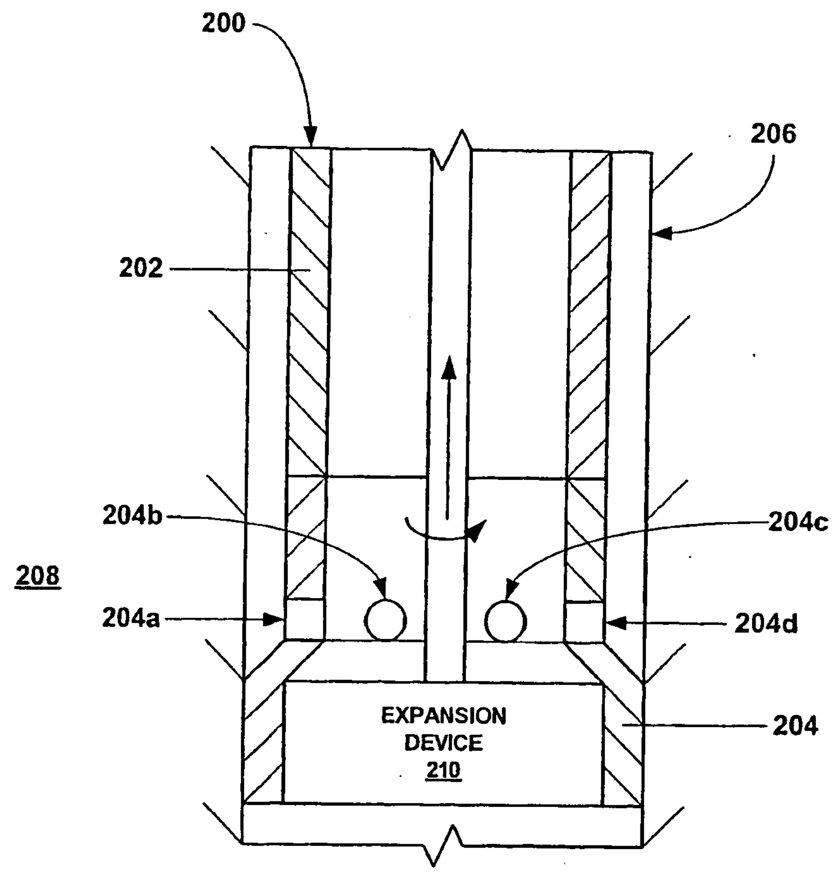


FIG. 16

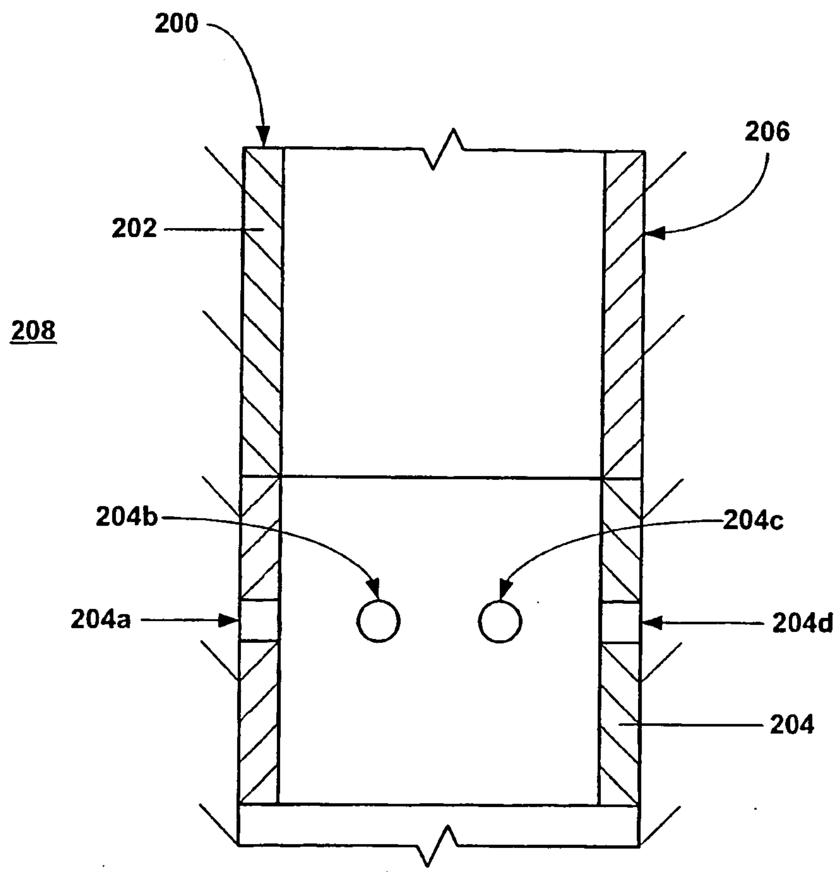


FIG. 17

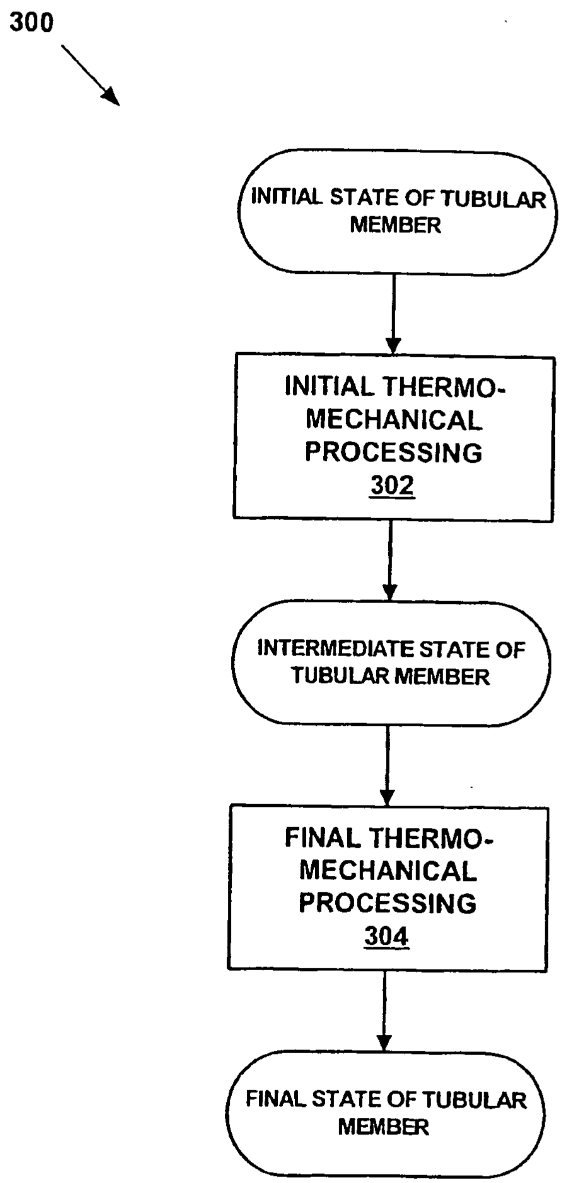
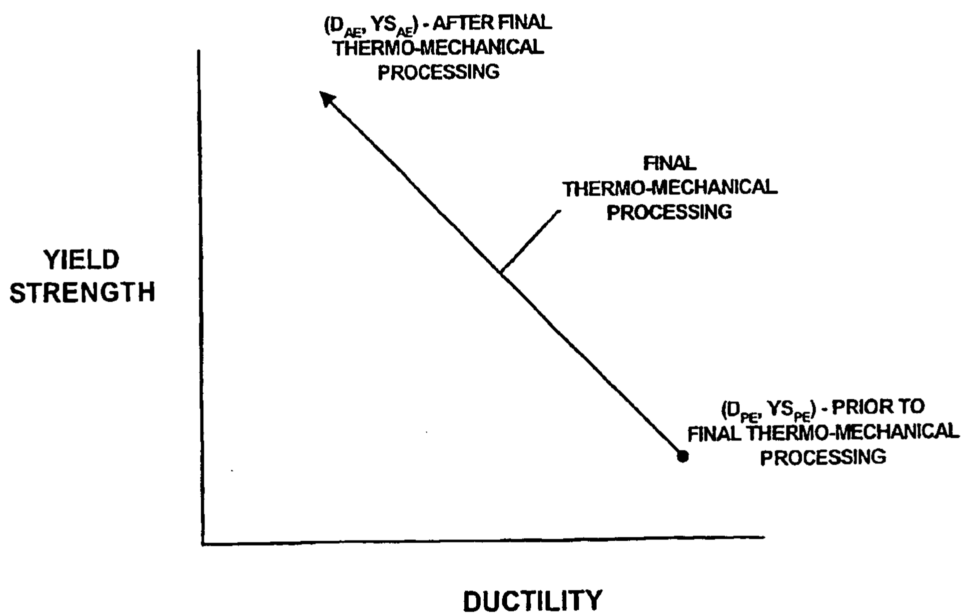

300
INITIAL STATE OF TUBULAR MEMBER
INITIAL THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESSING 302
INTERMEDIATE STATE OF TUBULAR MEMBER
FINAL THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESSING 304
FINAL STATE OF TUBULAR MEMBER

Fig. 18



(D_{AE}, YS_{AE}) - AFTER FINAL THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESSING
FINAL THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESSING
YIELD STRENGTH
(D_{PE}, YS_{PE}) - PRIOR TO FINAL THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESSING
DUCTILITY

FIG. 19

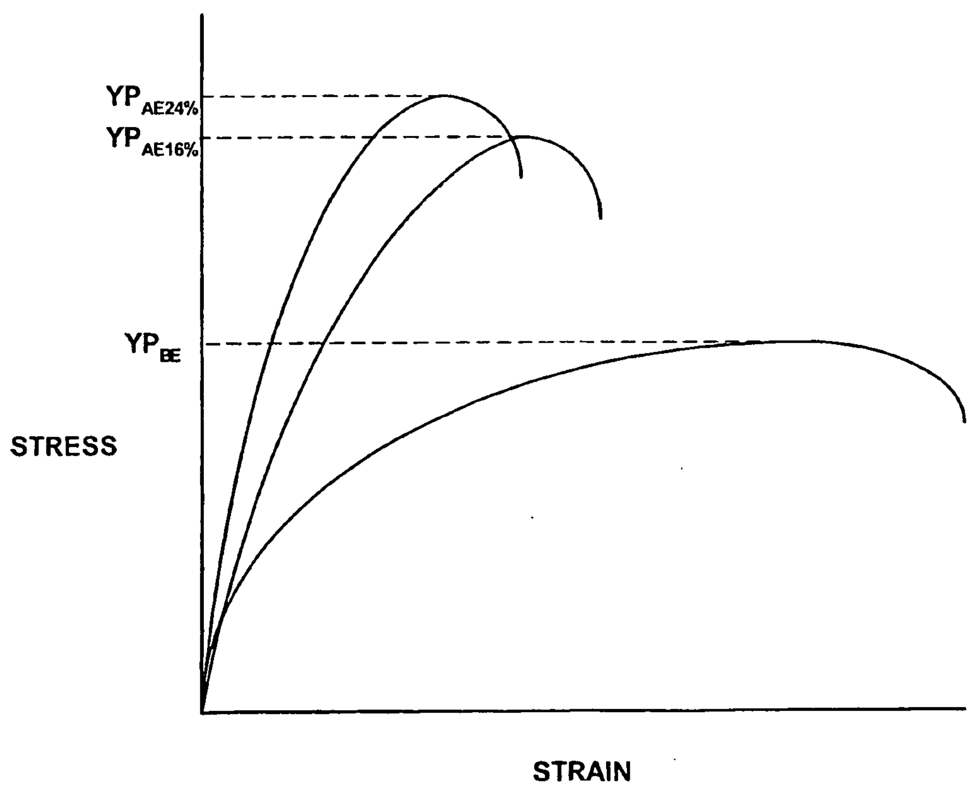


FIG. 20

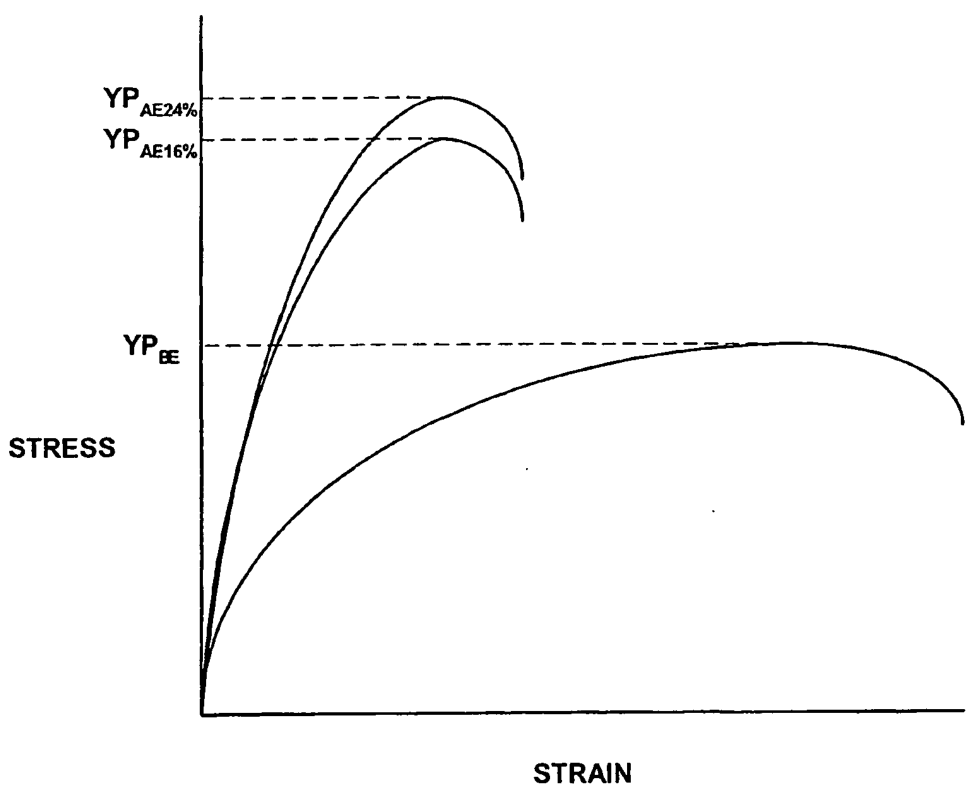
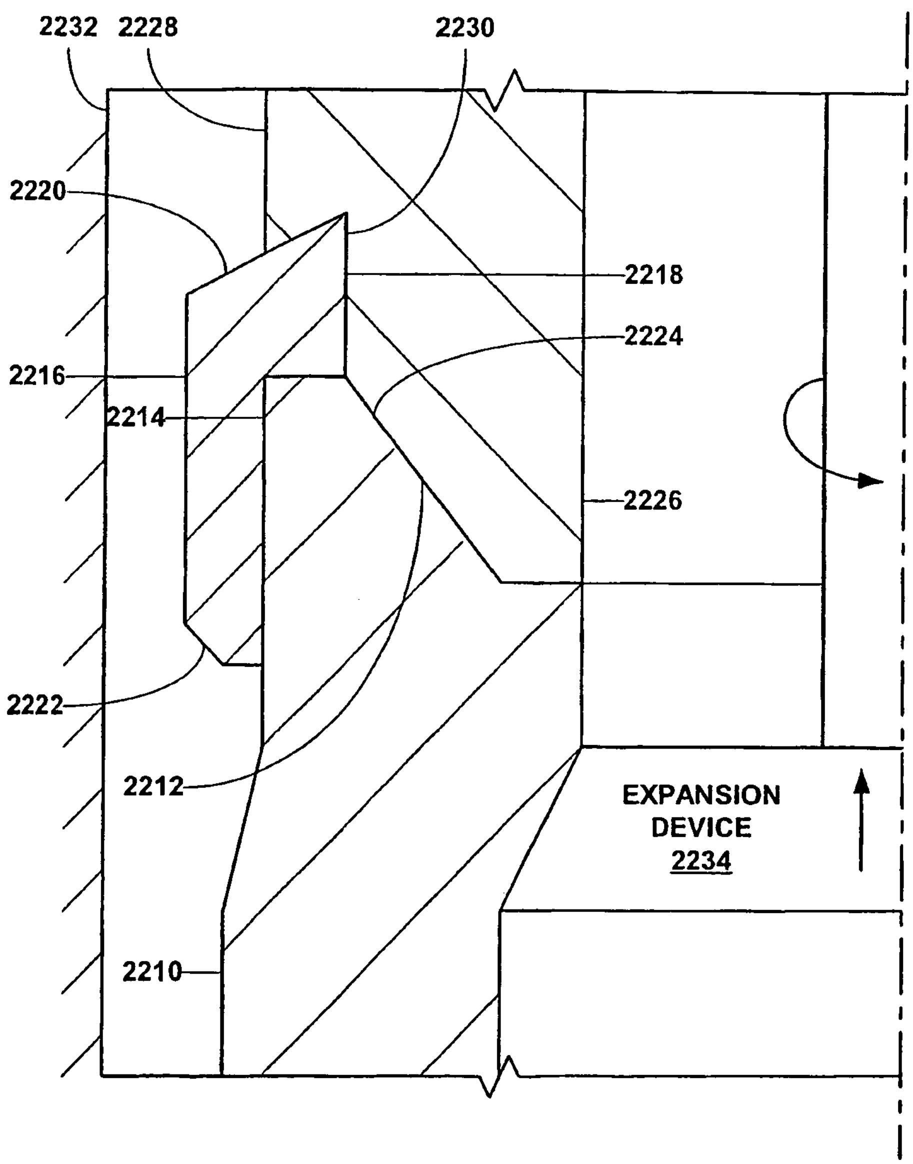


FIG. 21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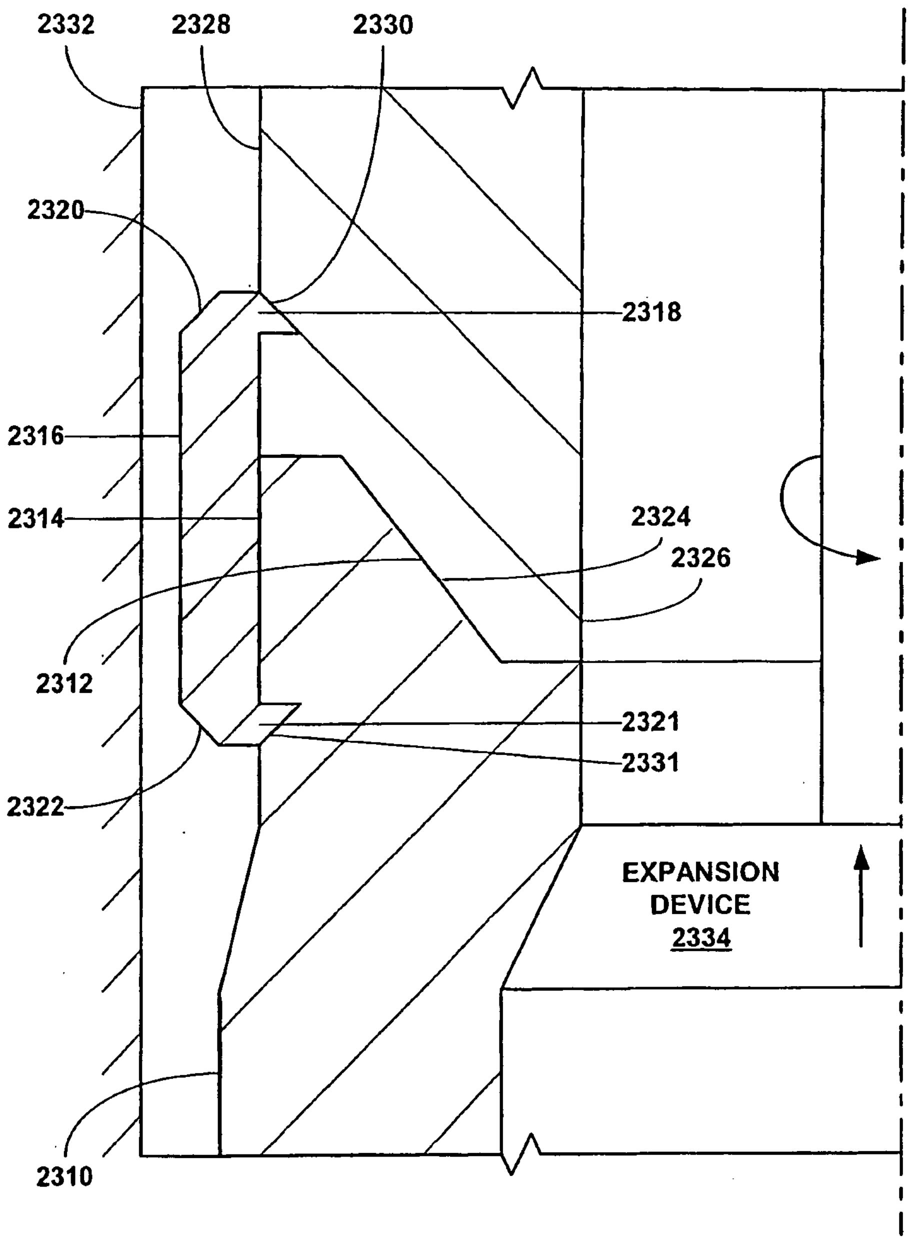
2226
2222
2212
EXPANSION DEVICE 2234
2210

FIG. 22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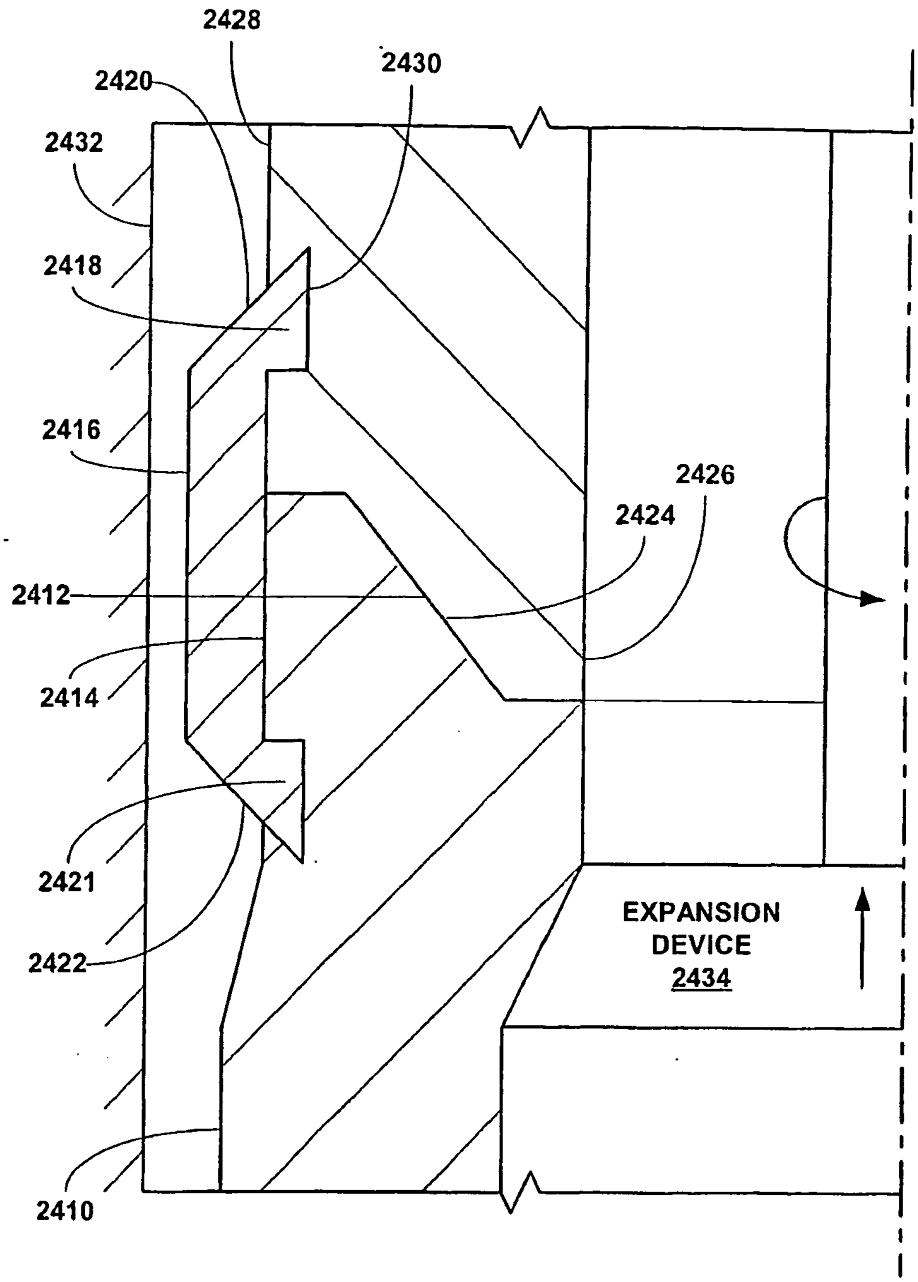
2324
2326
2312
2321
2331
2322
EXPANSION
DEVICE
2334
2310

FIG. 23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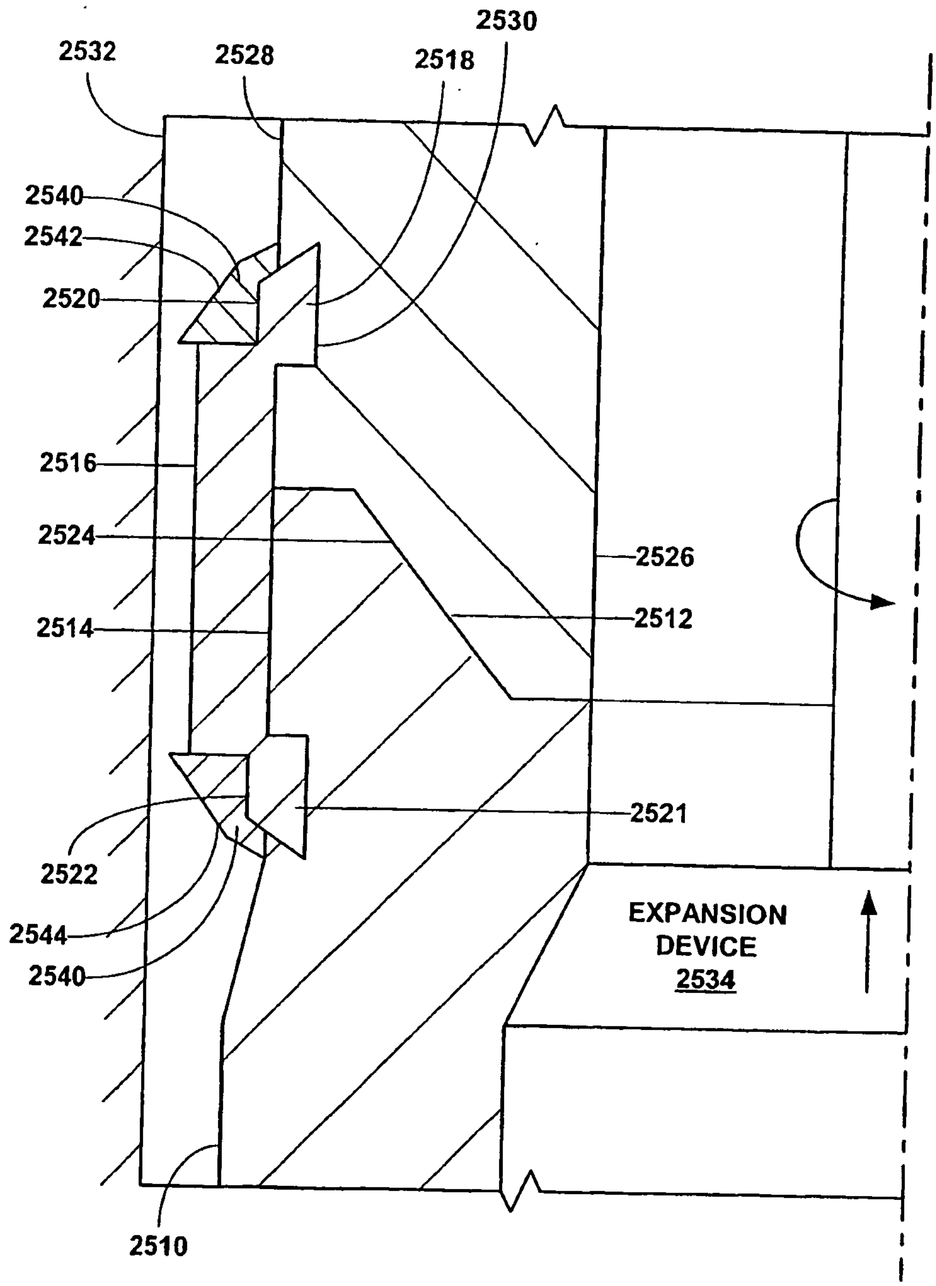
2422
EXPANSION DEVICE 2434
2410

FIG. 24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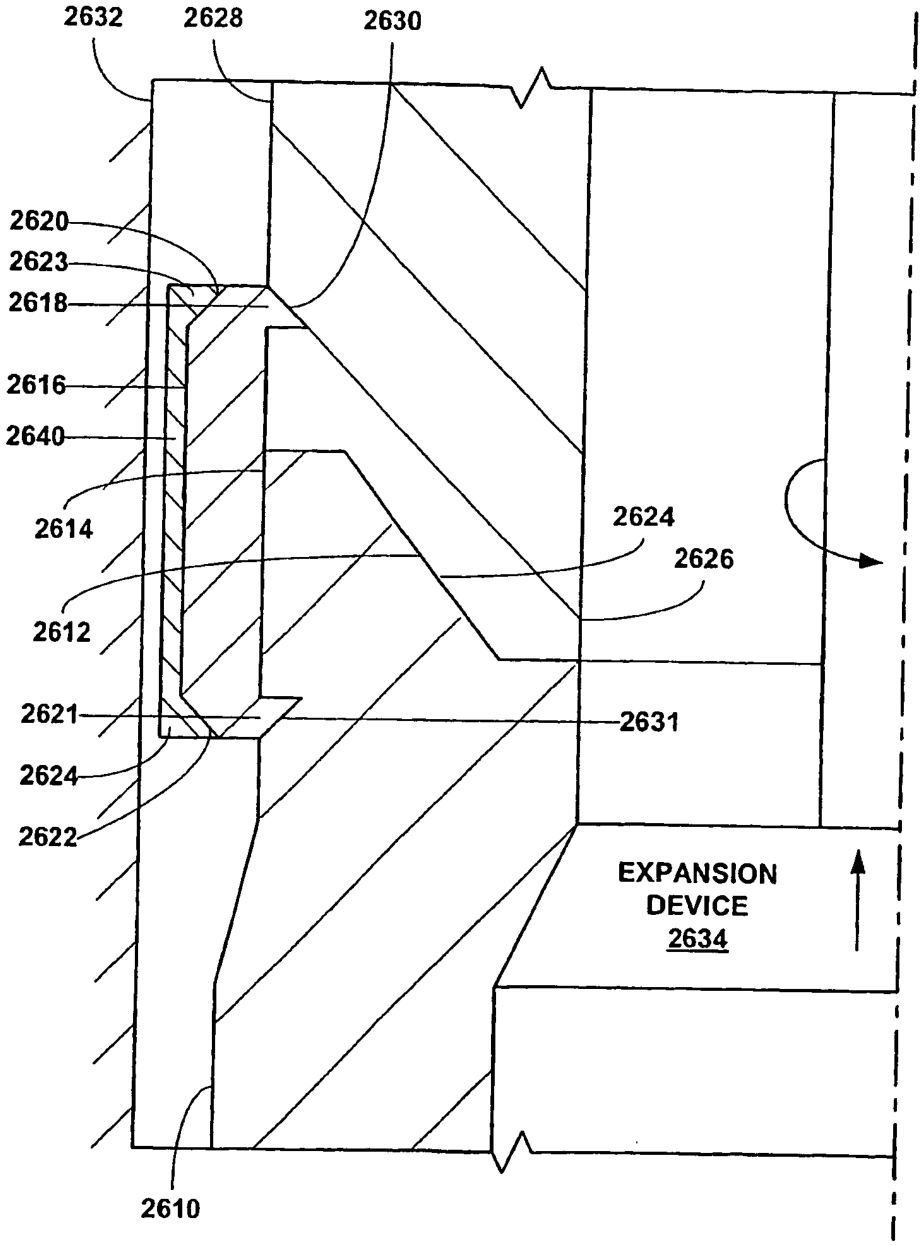
EXPANSION
DEVICE
2534
2510

FIG. 25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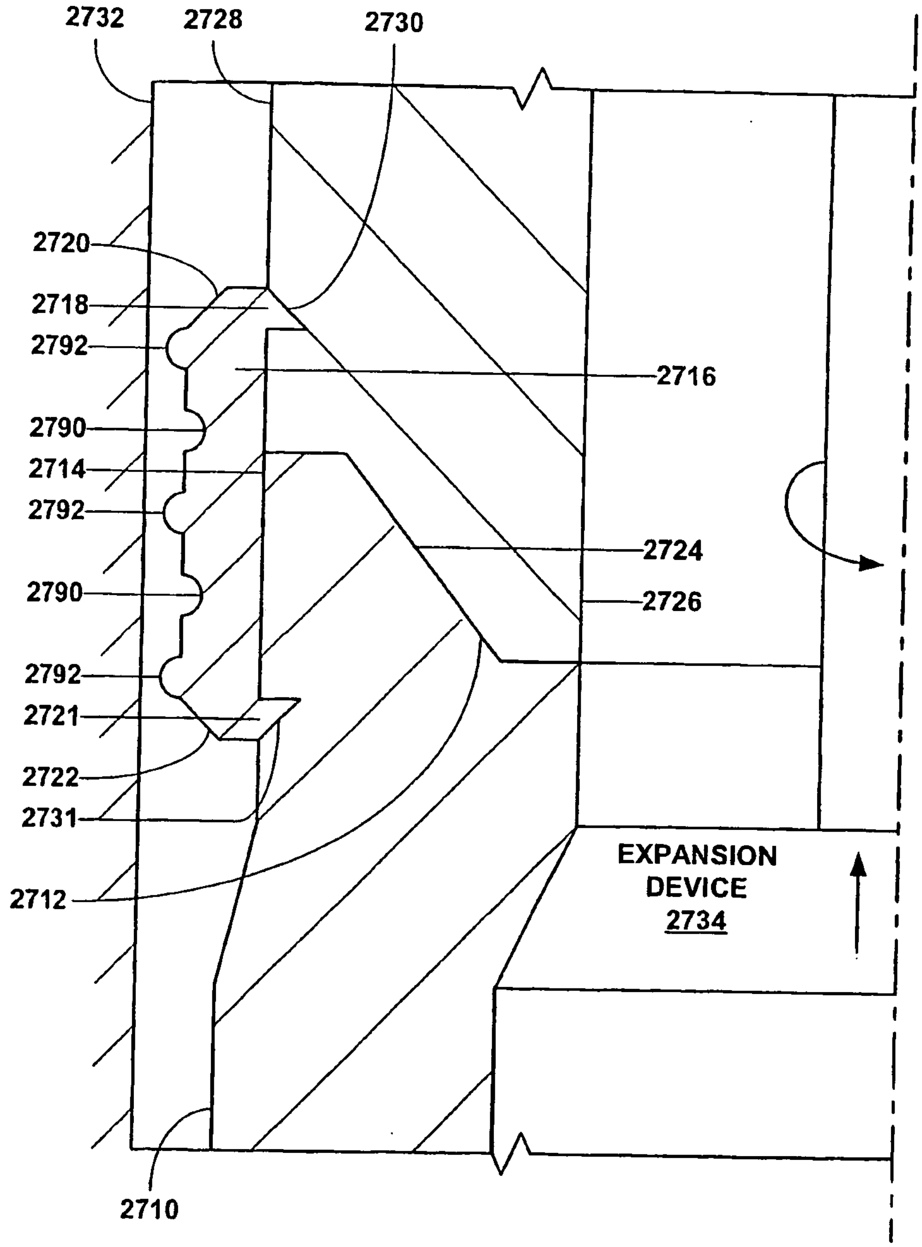
2624
2622
EXPANSION
DEVICE
2634
2610

FIG. 26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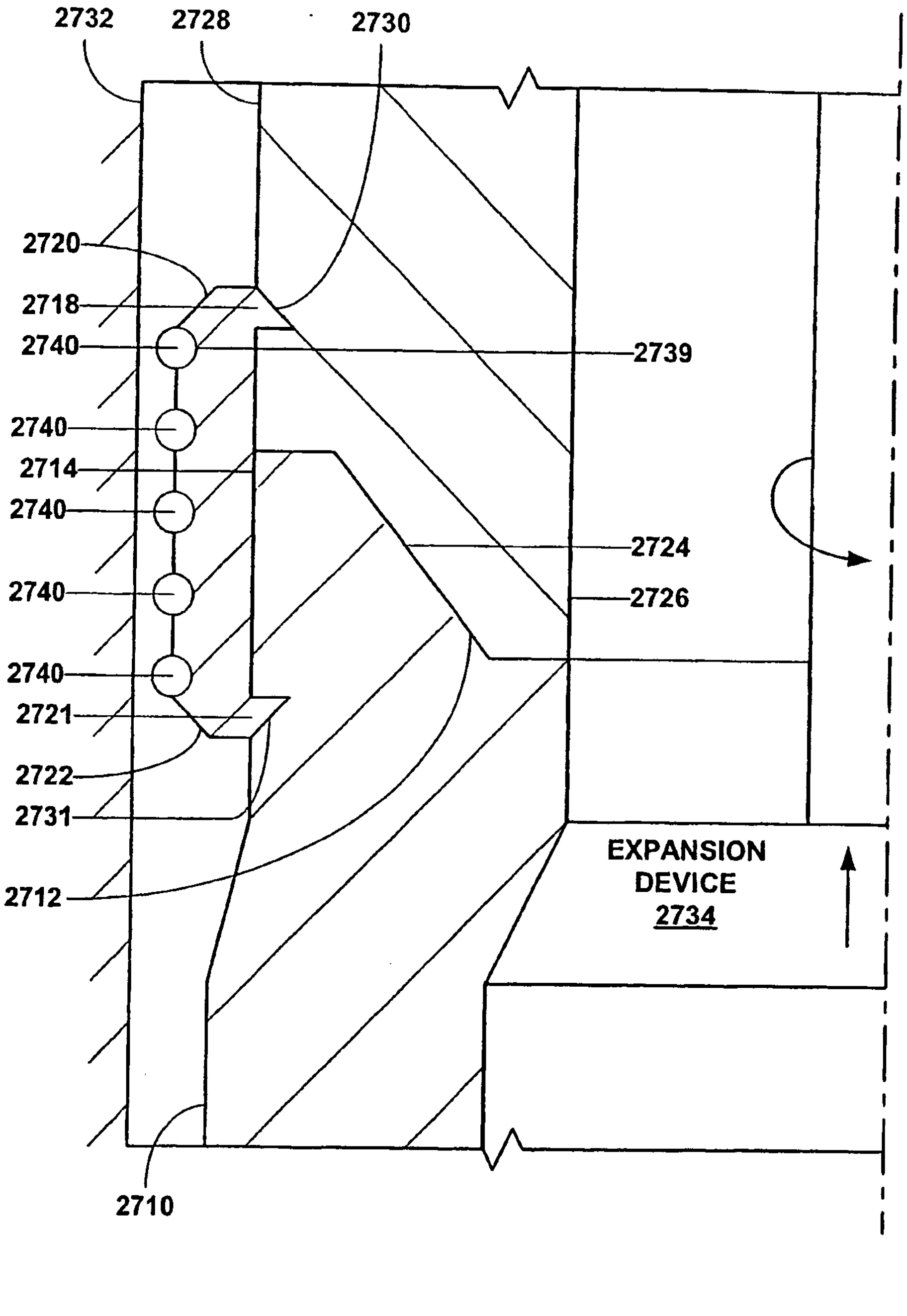
2721
2722
2731
2712
EXPANSION
DEVICE
2734
2710

FIG. 27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2731
2712
EXPANSION
DEVICE
2734
2710

FIG. 28

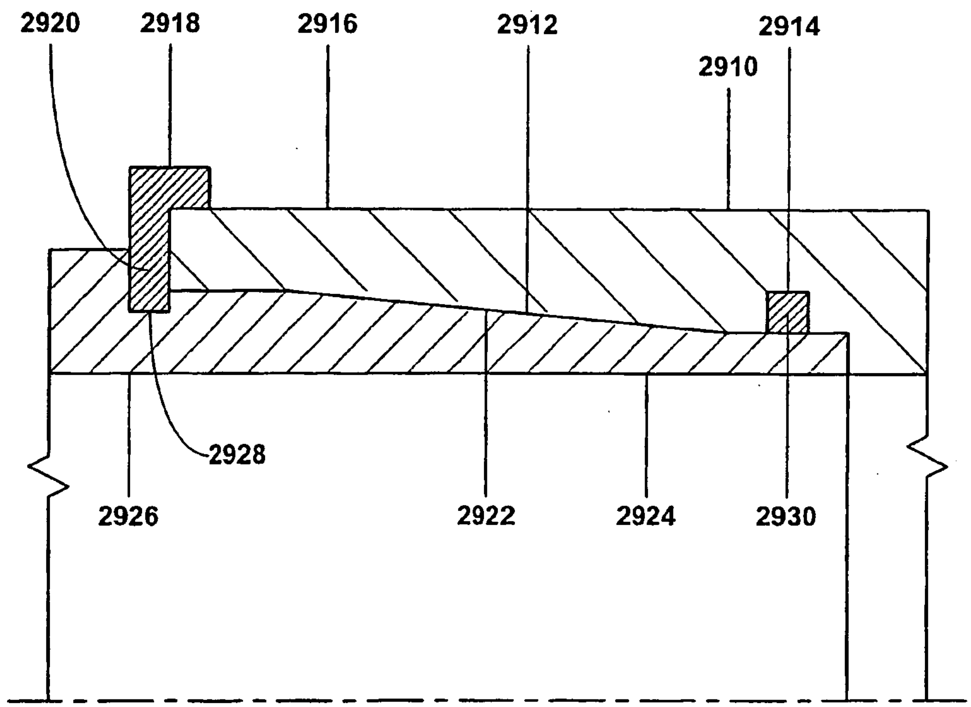


FIG. 29

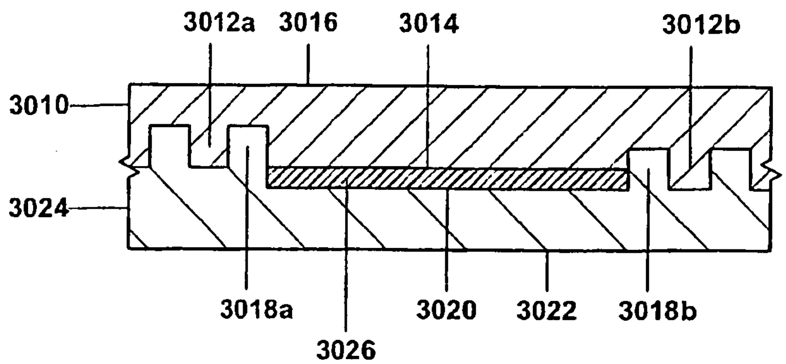


FIG. 30a

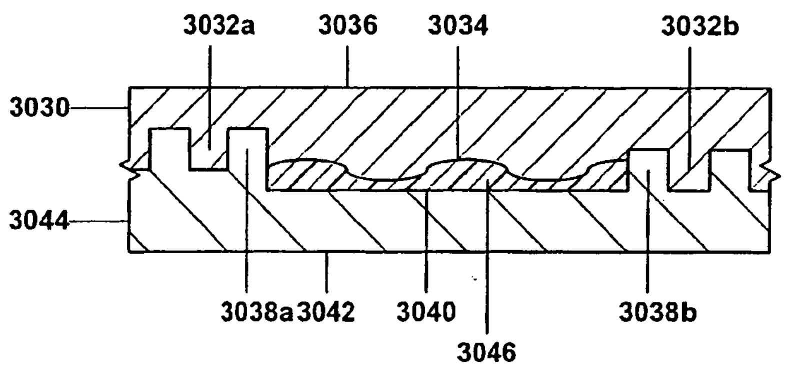


FIG. 30b

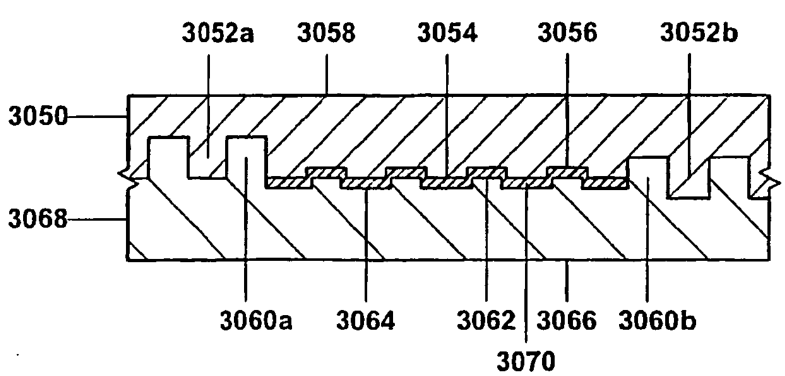
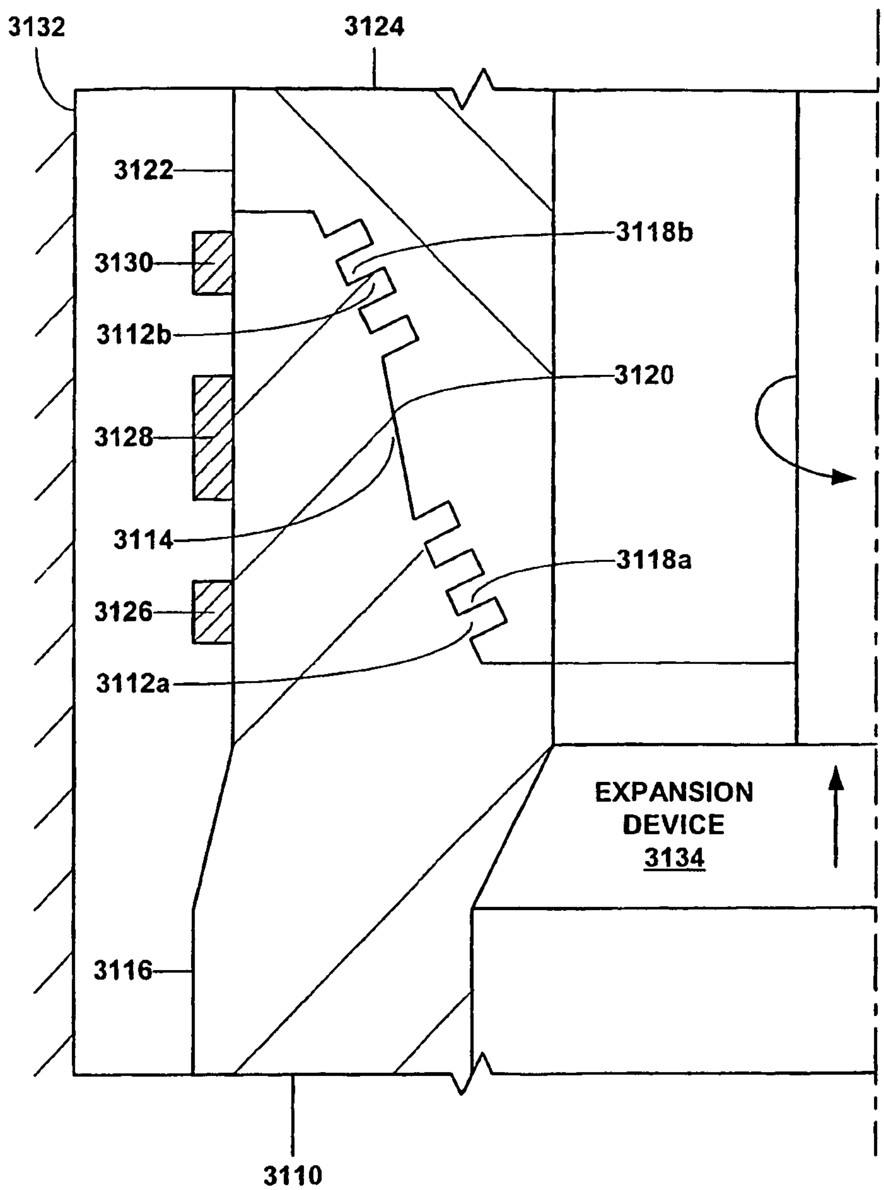


FIG. 30c


3132
3124
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3130
3118b
3112b
3120
3128
3114
3118a
3126
3112a
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3134
3116
3110

FIG. 31

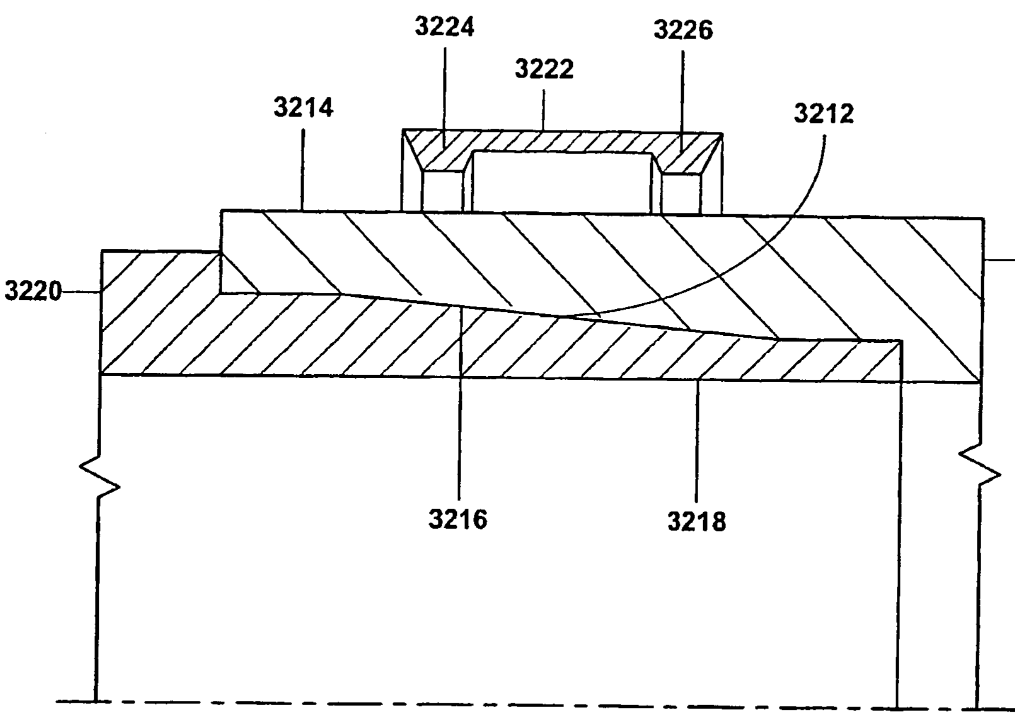


FIG. 32a

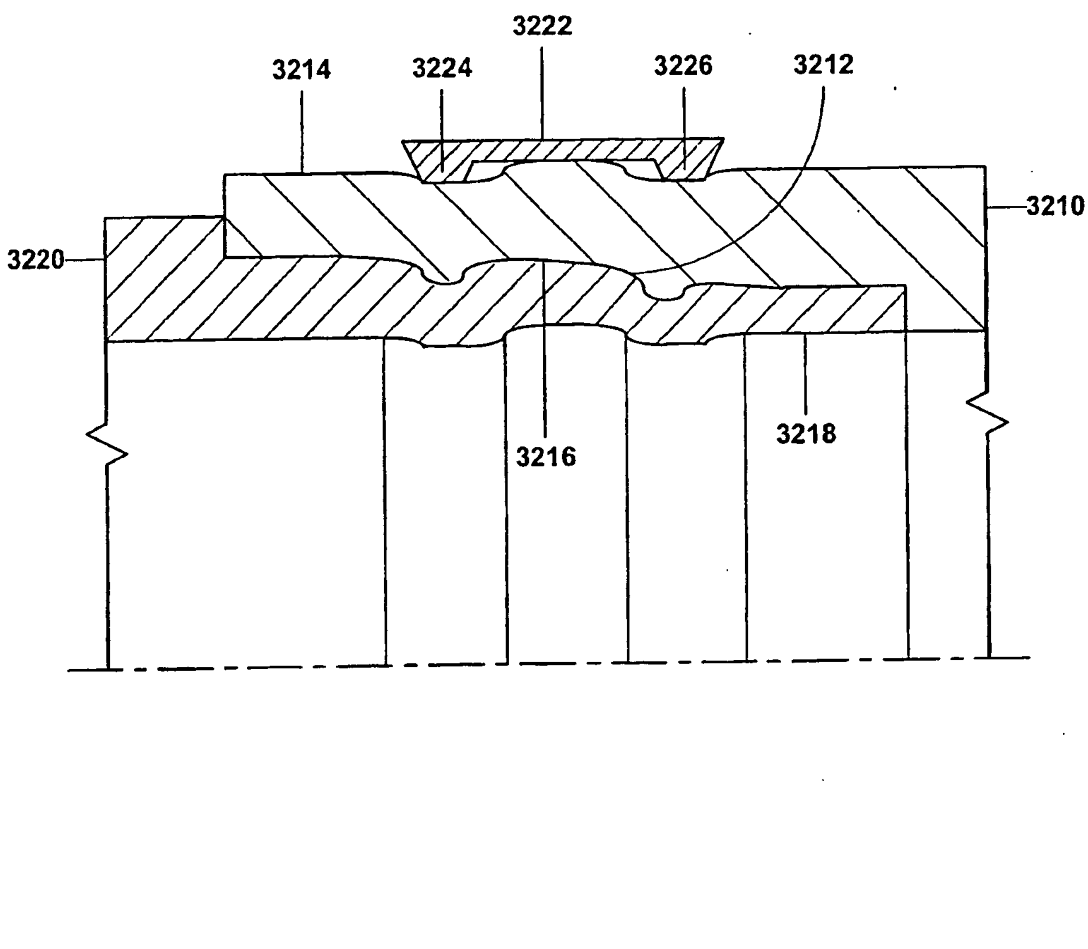
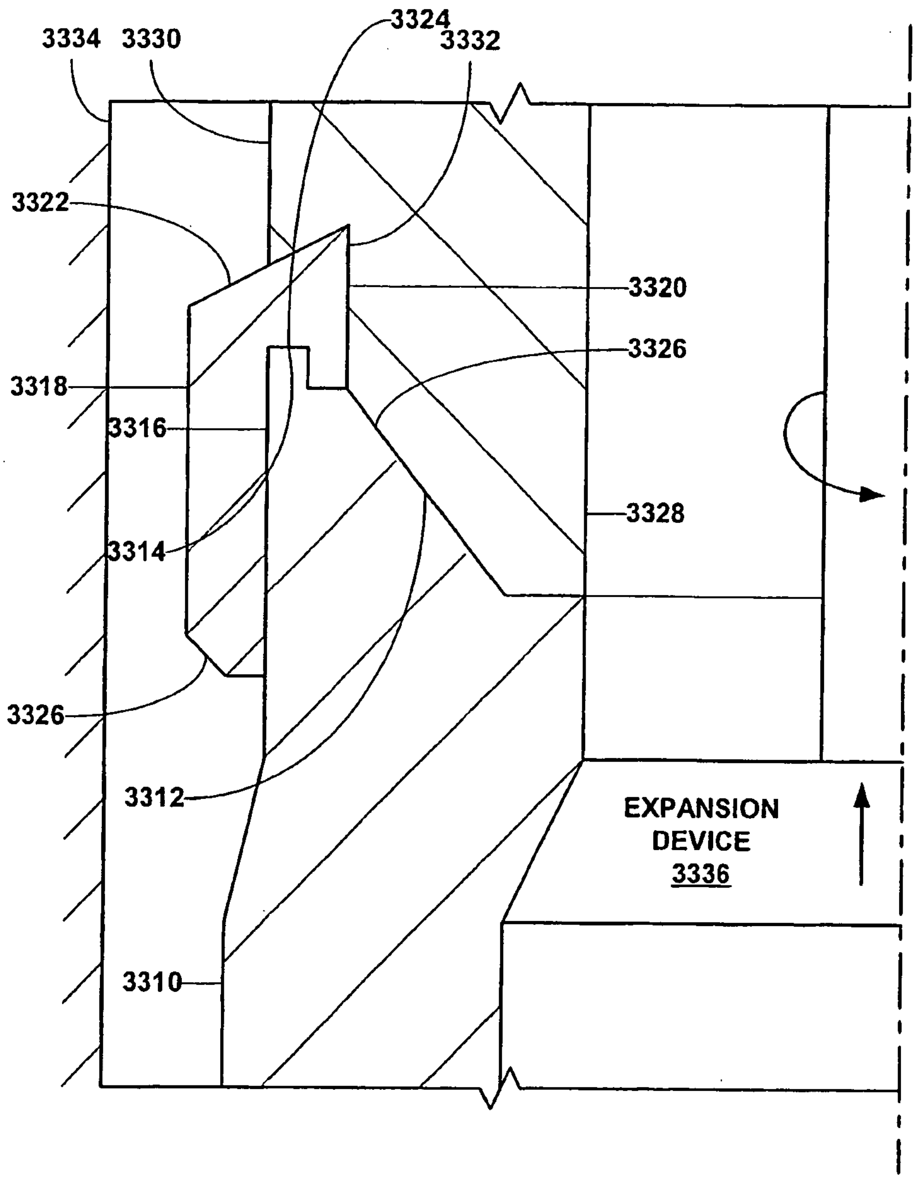


FIG. 32b


3334
3330
3324
3332
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3318
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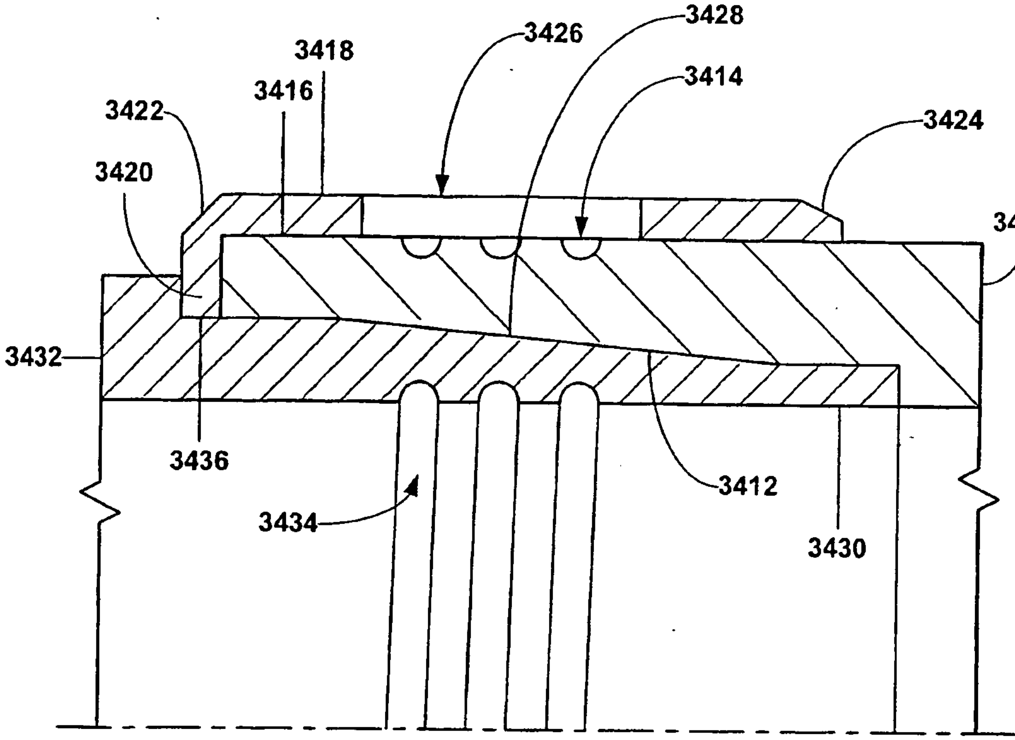
3314
3326
3312
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3336
3310

FIG. 33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3430

FIG. 34a

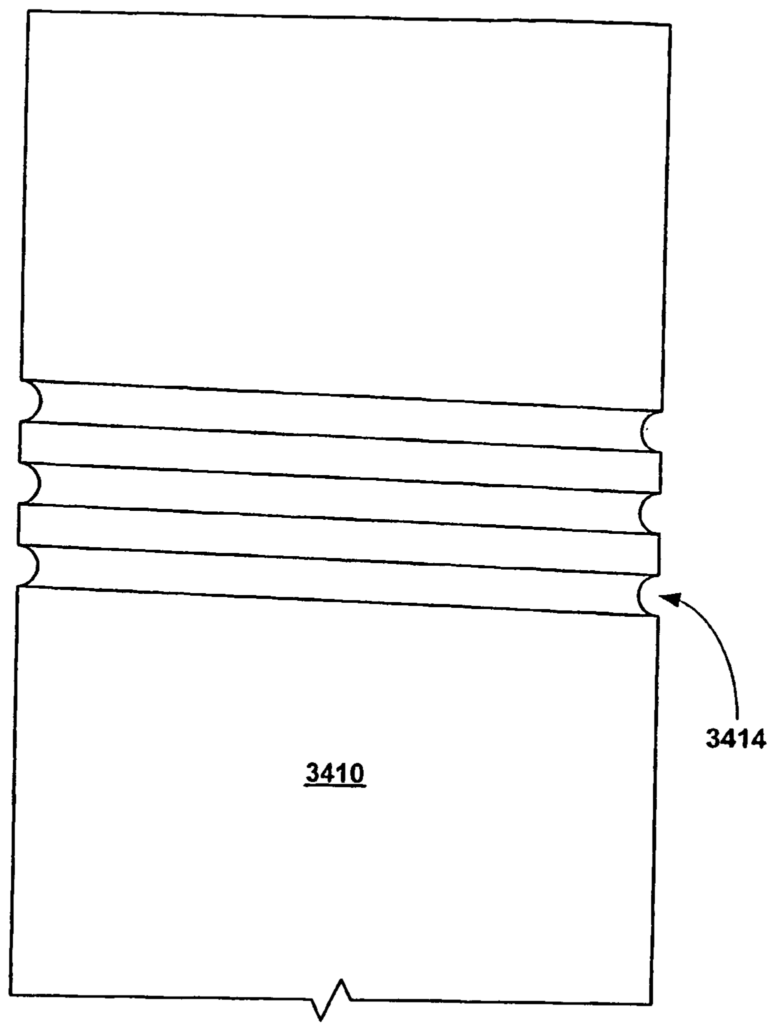

Fig. 34b

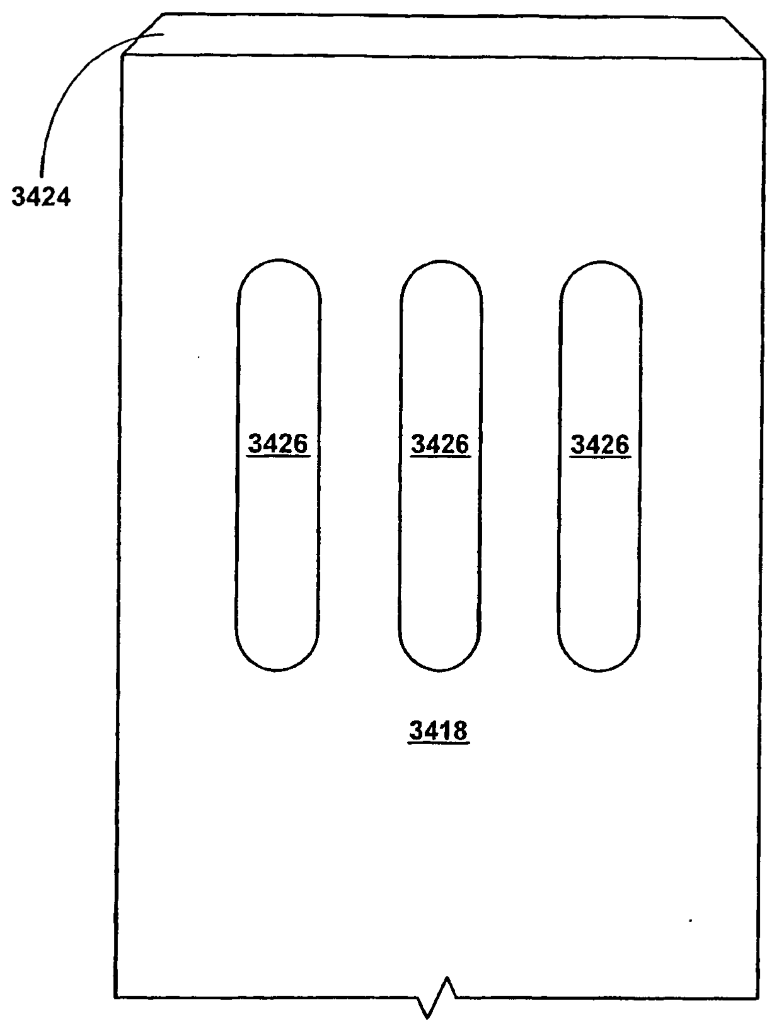

Fig. 34c

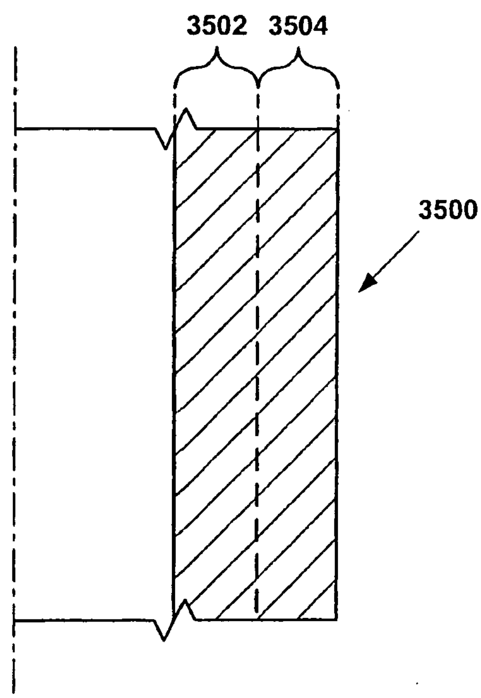

FIG. 35a

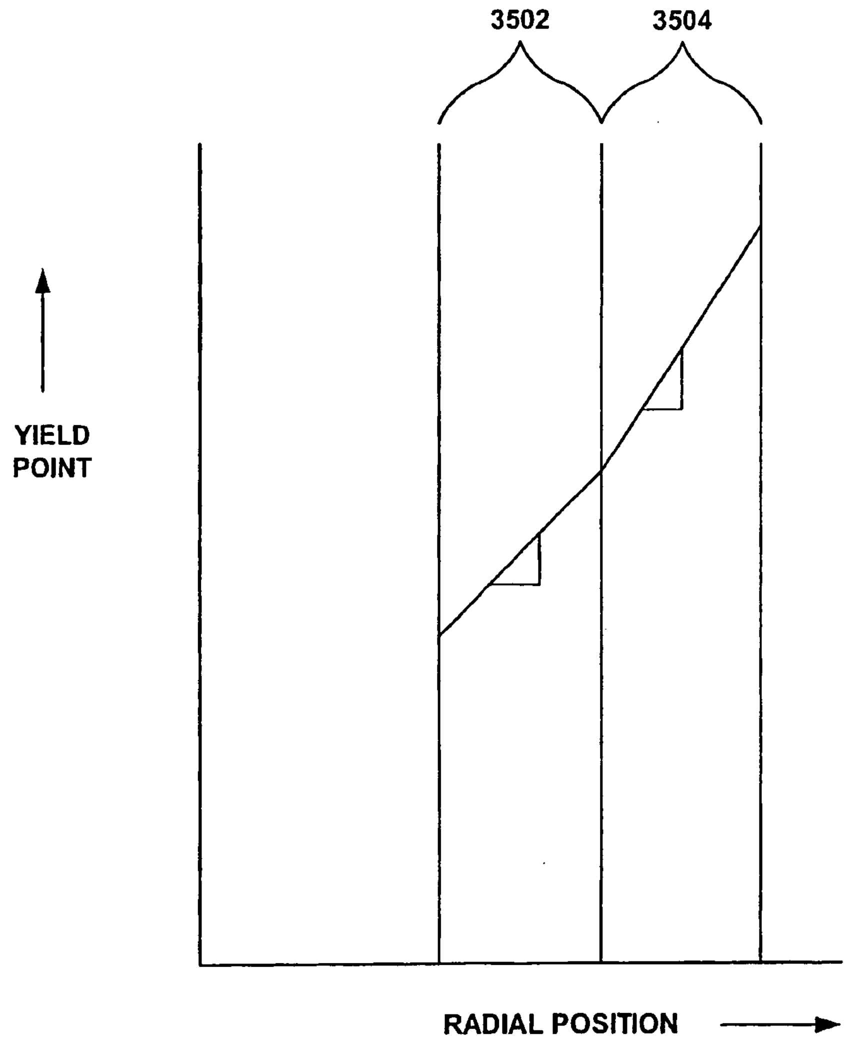

FIG. 35b

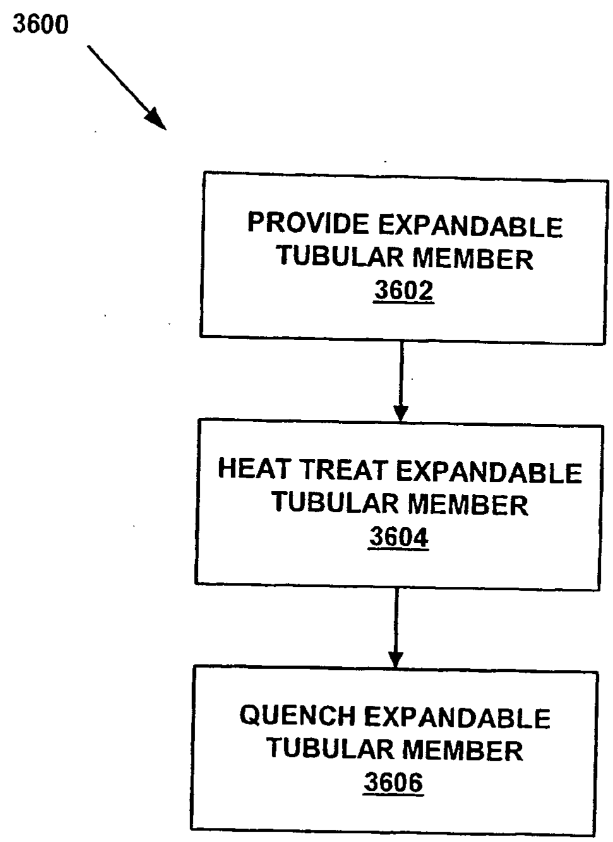
3600
PROVIDE EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3602
HEAT TREAT EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3604
QUENCH EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3606

FIG. 36a

3602a

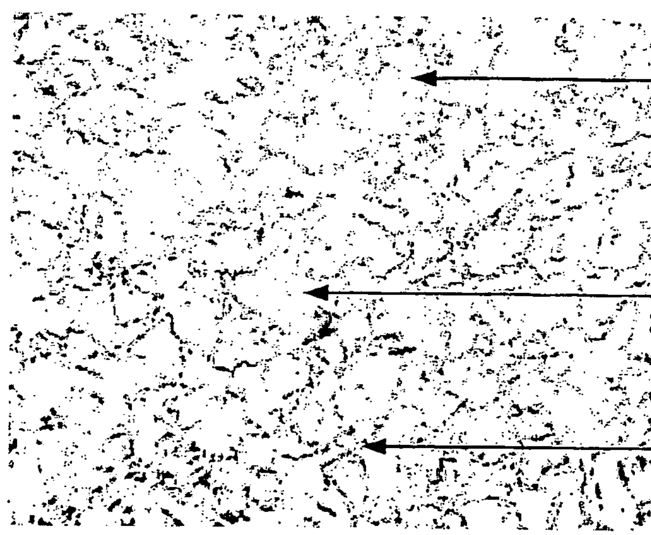

Fig. 36b

3602a

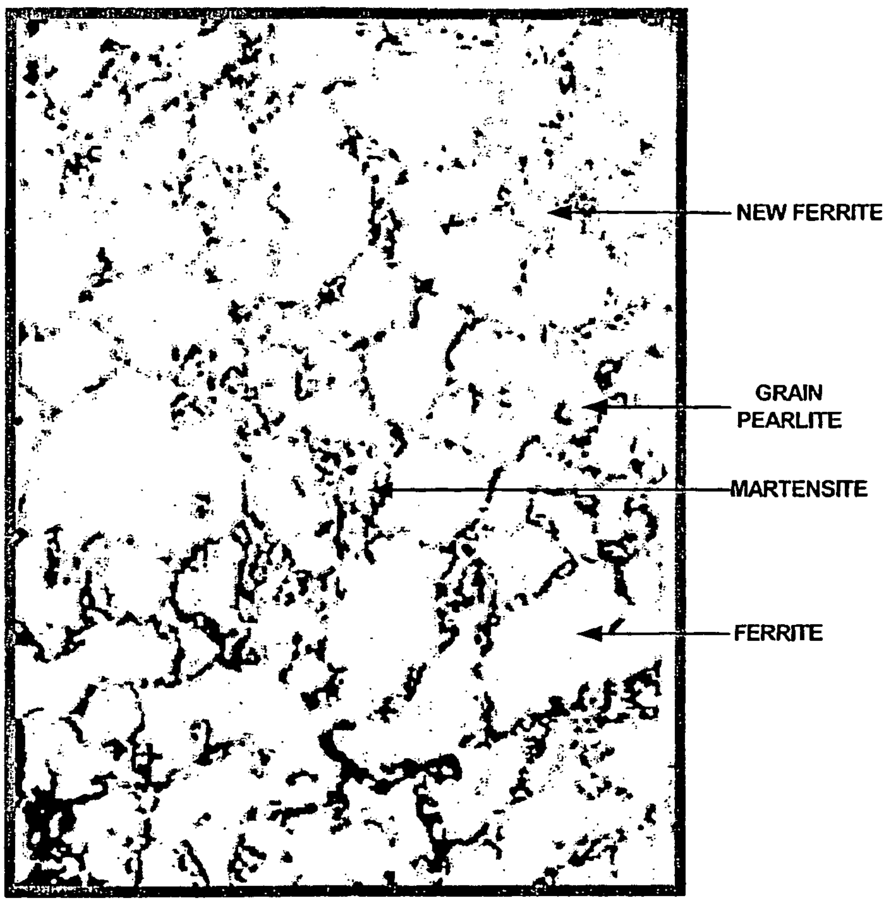

Fig. 36c

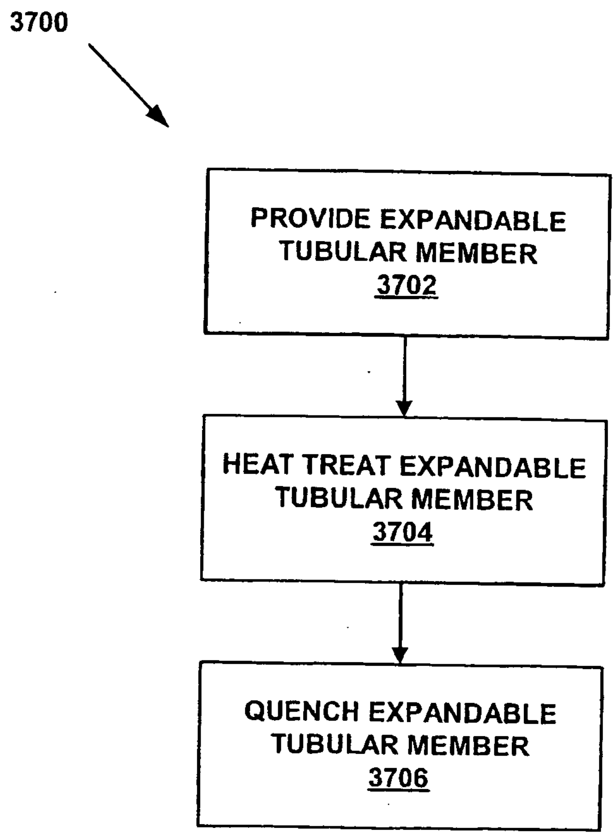
3700
PROVIDE EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER 3702
HEAT TREAT EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER 3704
QUENCH EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER 3706

FIG. 37a

3702a

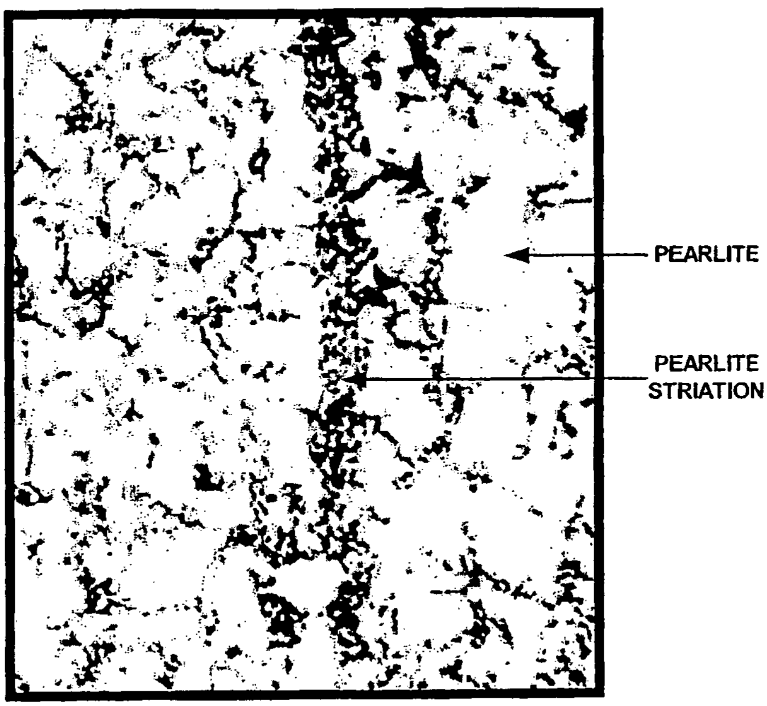

Fig. 37b

3702a

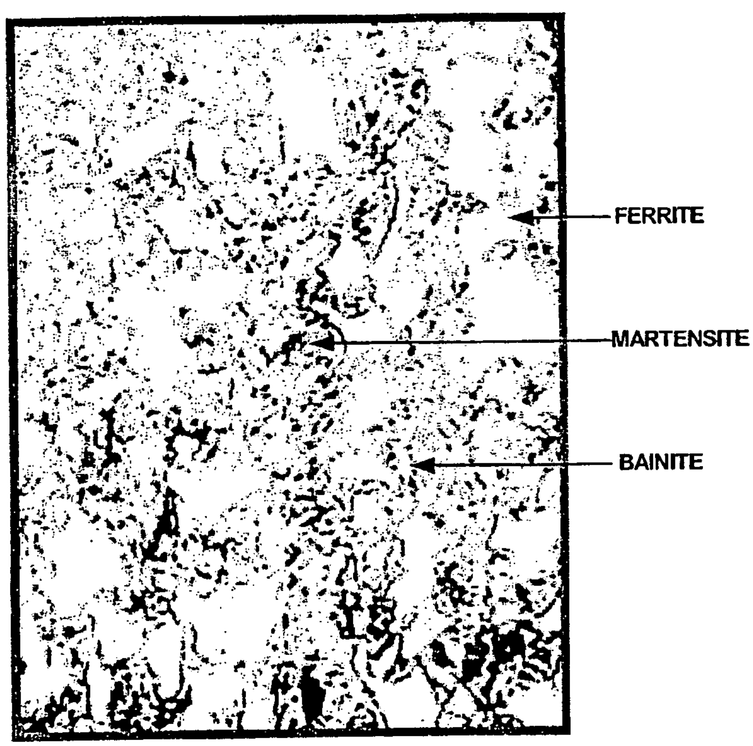

Fig. 37c

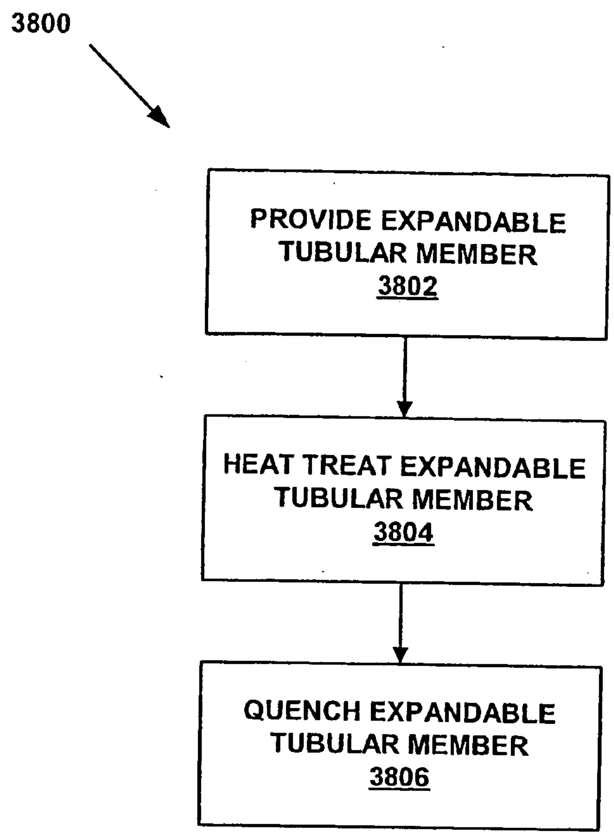
3800
PROVIDE EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3802
HEAT TREAT EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3804
QUENCH EXPANDABLE TUBULAR MEMBER
3806

FIG. 38a

3802a

Fig. 38b

3802a

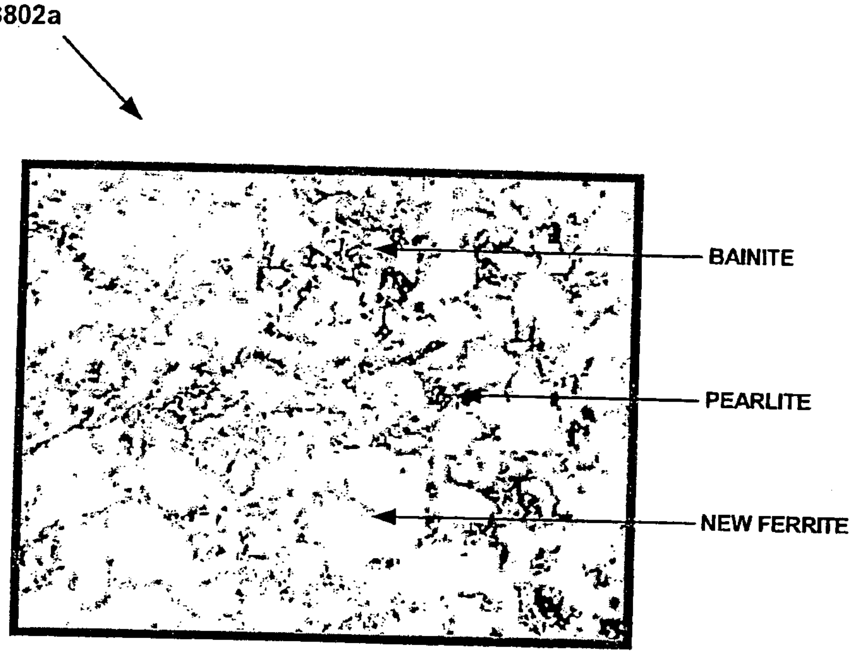

Fig. 38c

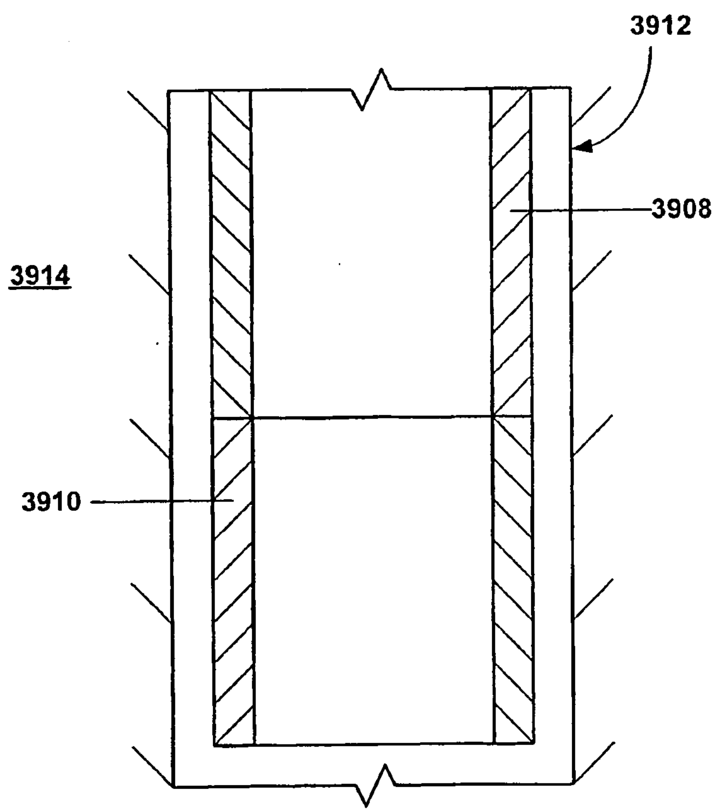

FIG. 39a

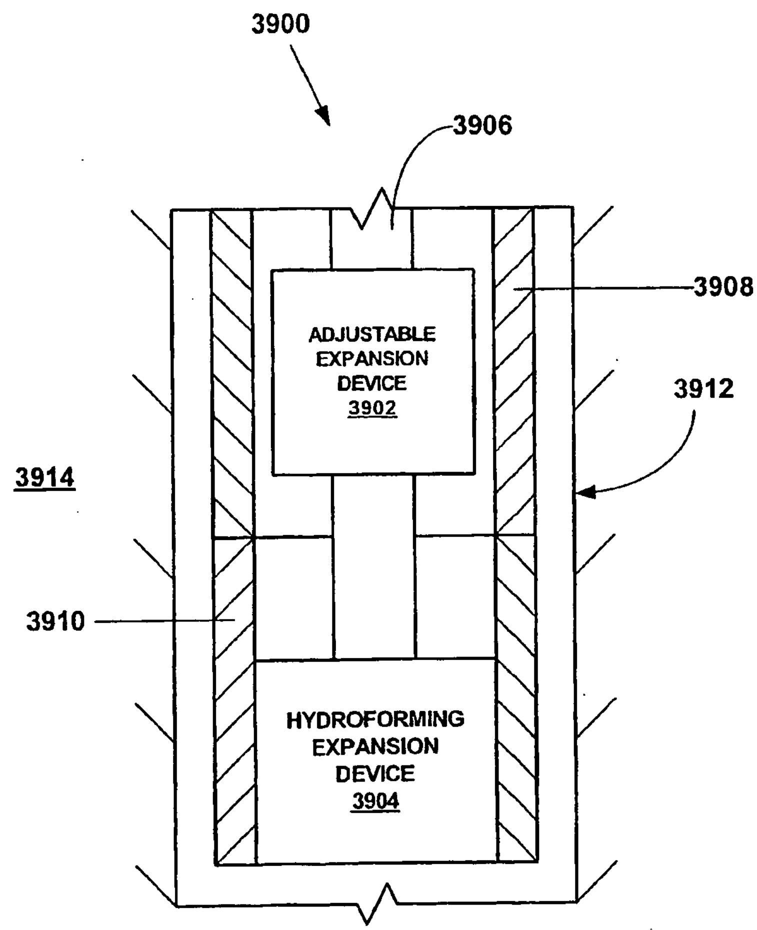
3900
3906
3908
ADJUSTABLE EXPANSION DEVICE 3902
3912
3914
3910
HYDROFORMING EXPANSION DEVICE 3904

FIG. 39b

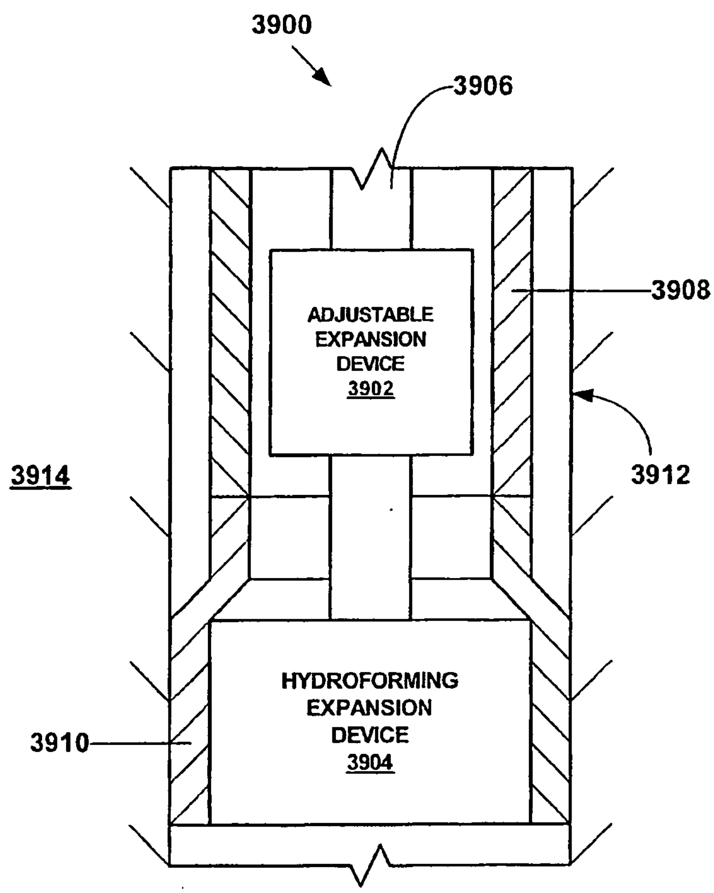
3900
3906
3908
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3902
3914
3912
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3904
3910

FIG. 39c

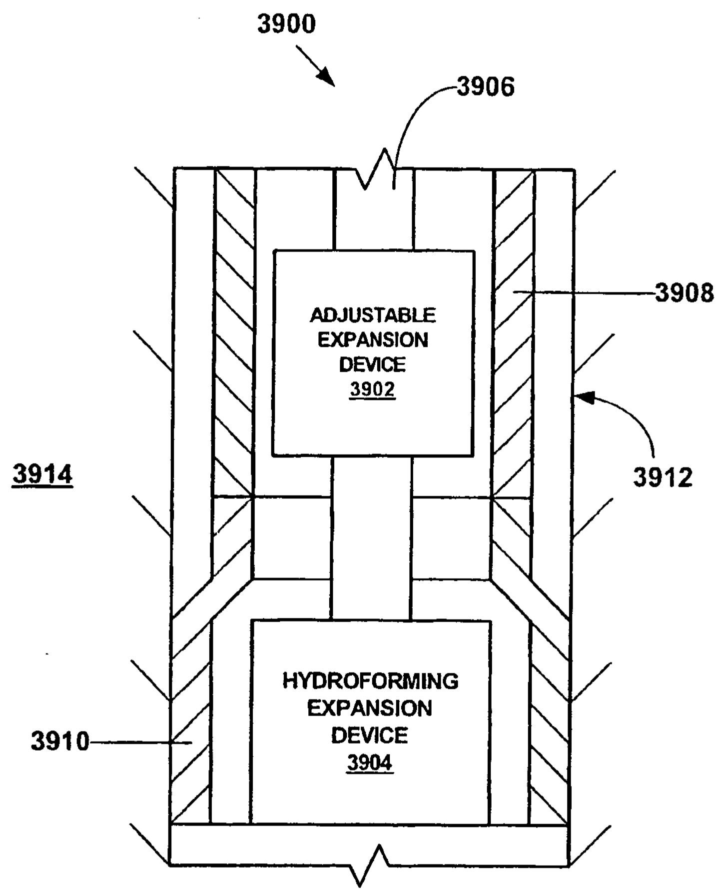
3900
3906
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3902
3908
3914
3912
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3904
3910

FIG. 39d

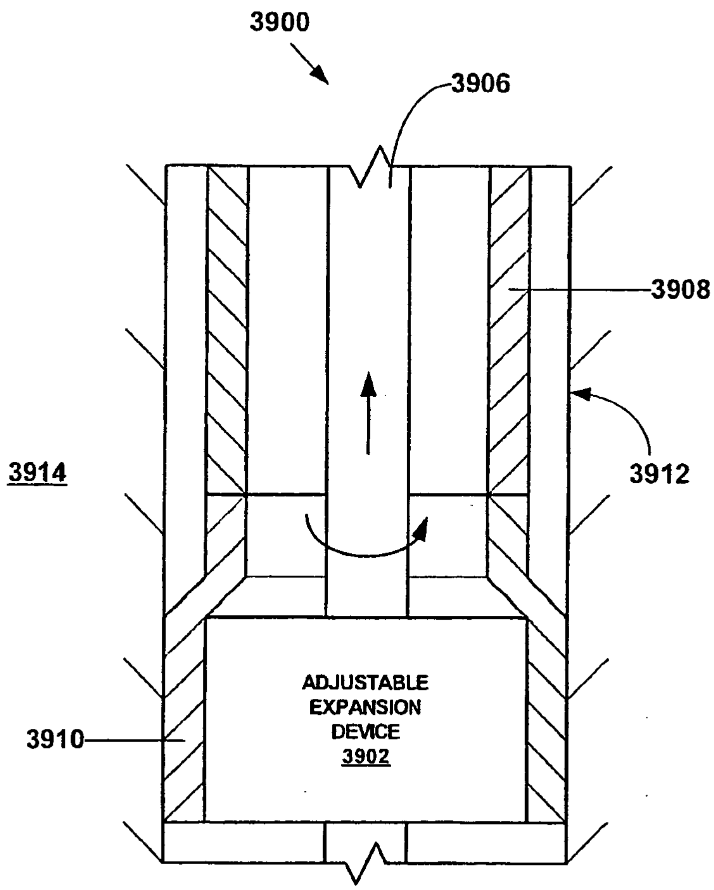
3900
3906
3908
3914
3912
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
3902
3910

FIG. 39e

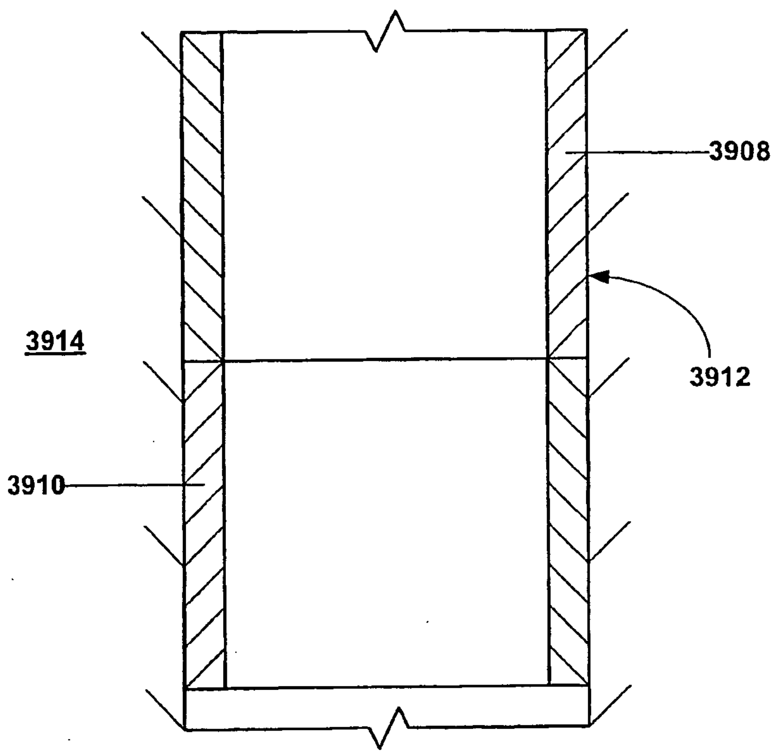

FIG. 39f

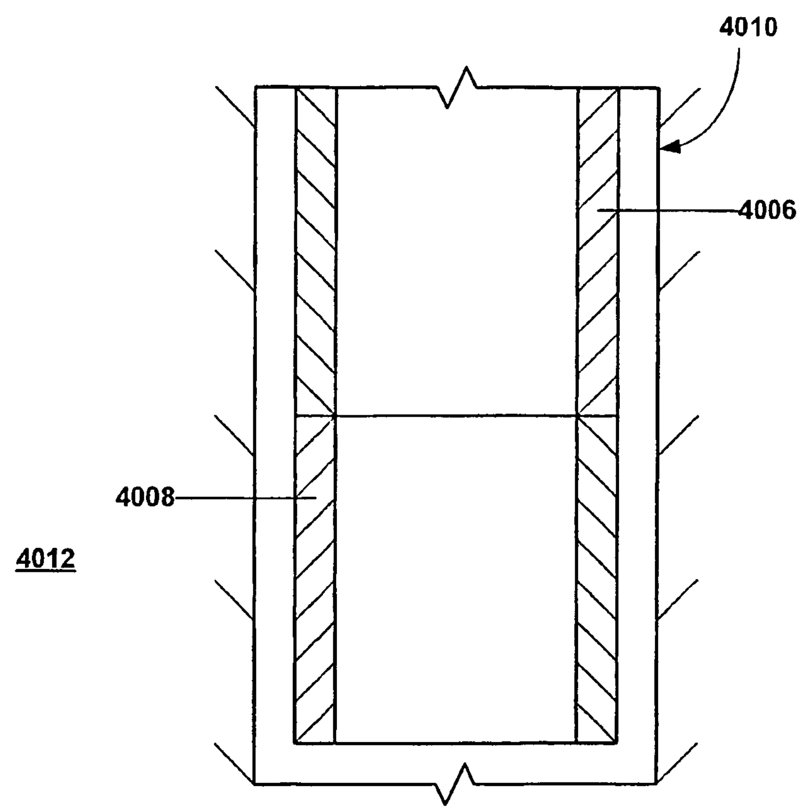

FIG. 40a

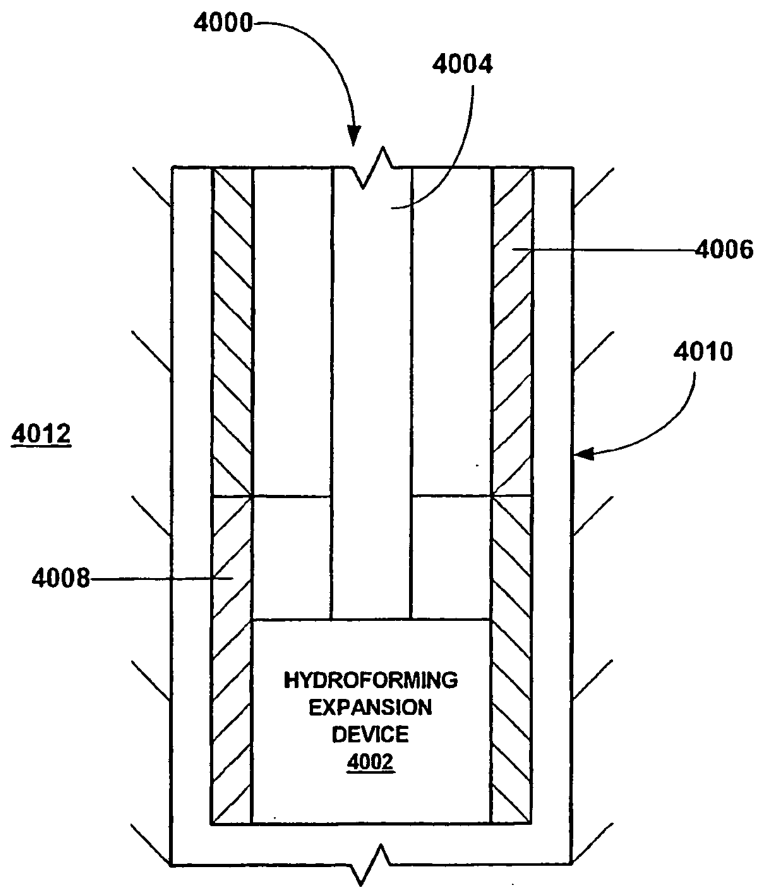
4000
4004
4006
4010
4012
4008
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002

FIG. 40b

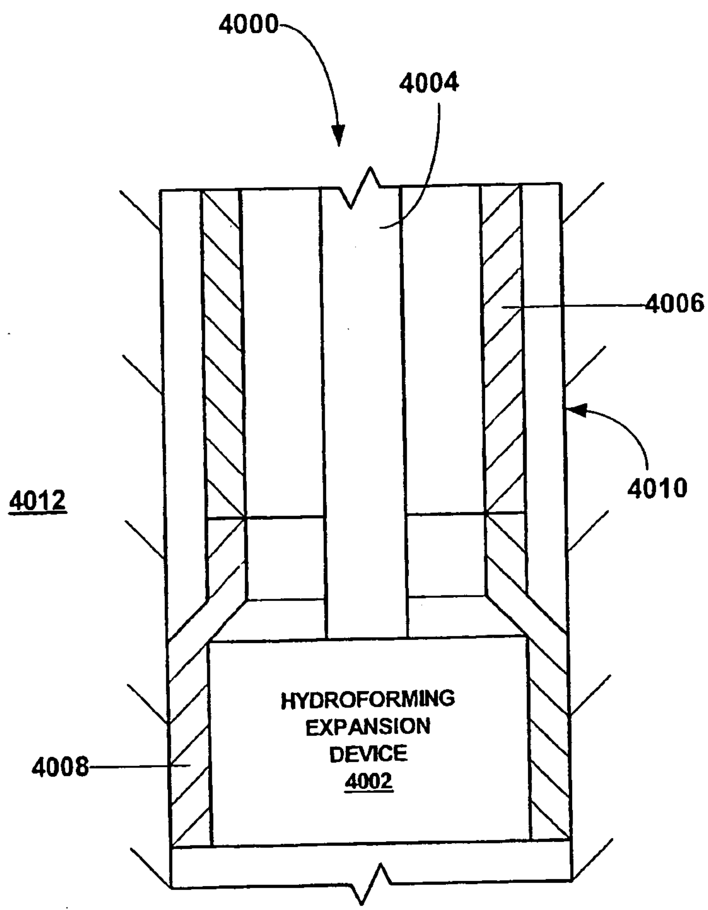
4000
4004
4006
4010
4012
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002
4008

FIG. 40c

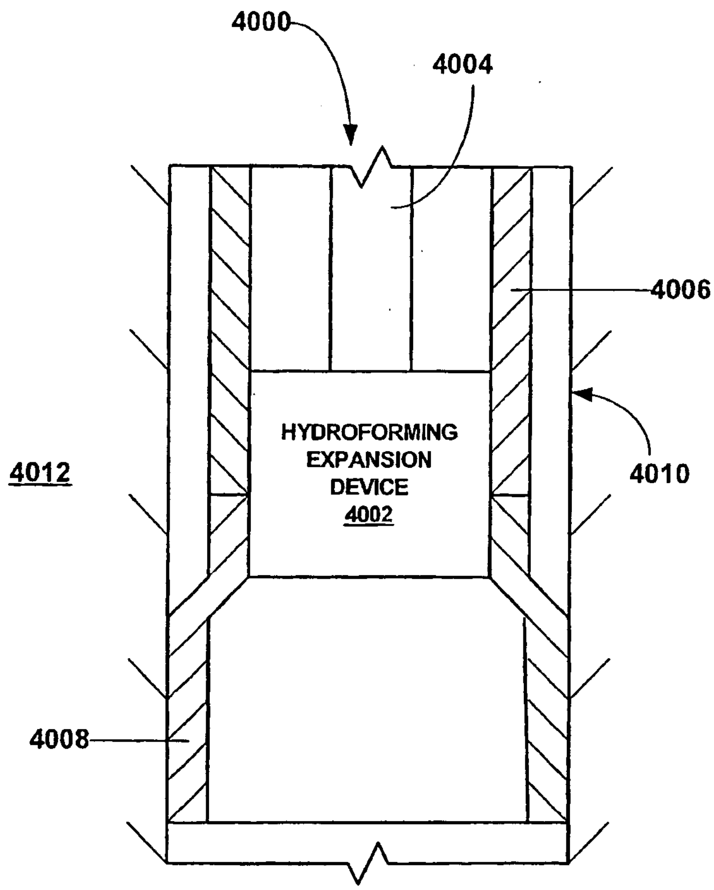
4000
4004
4006
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002
4012
4010
4008

FIG. 40d

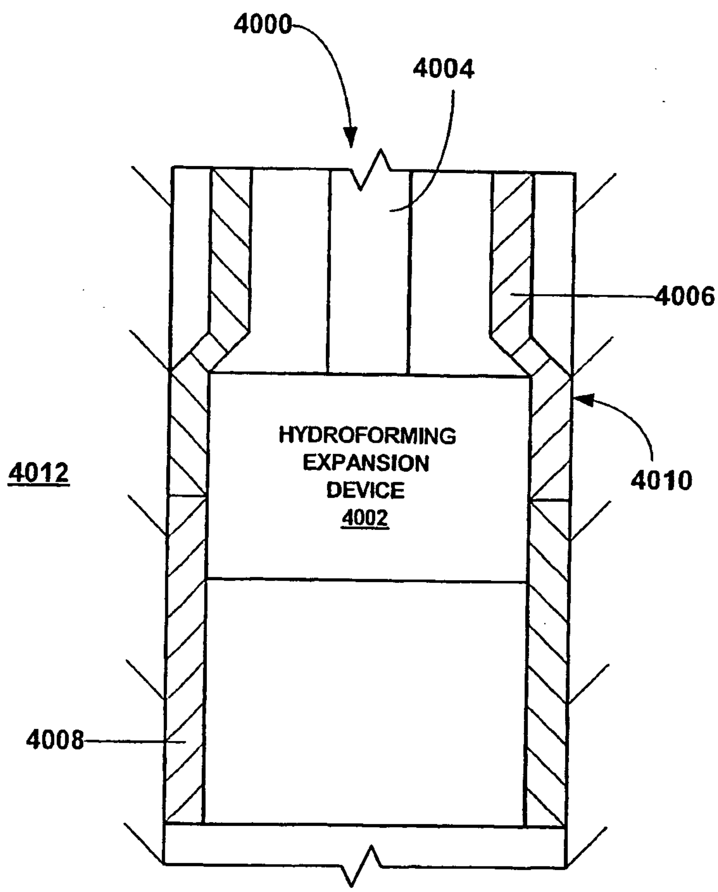
4000
4004
4006
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002
4012
4010
4008

FIG. 40e

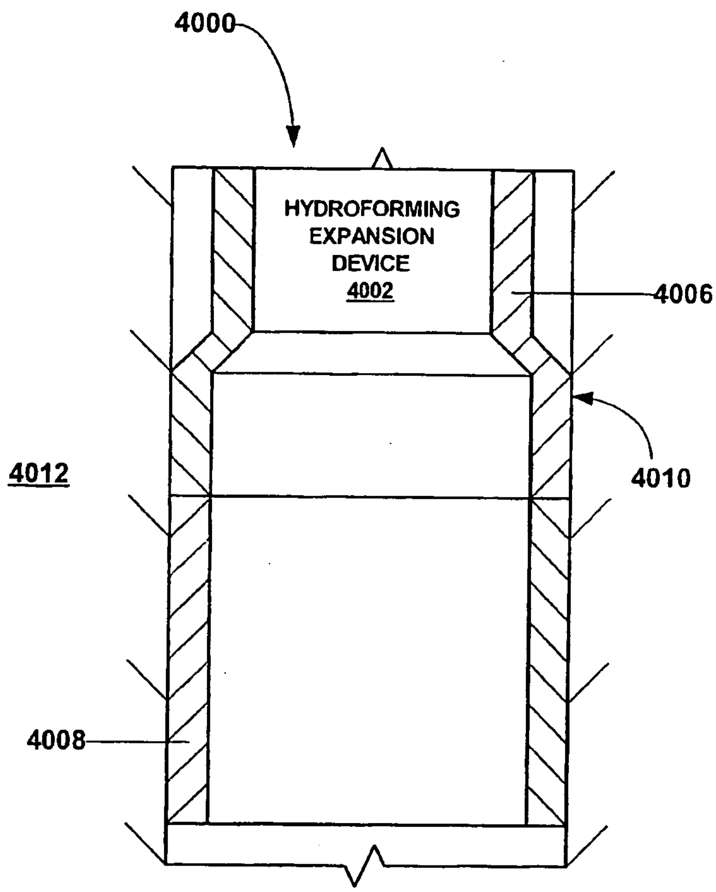
4000
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002
4006
4012
4010
4008

FIG. 40f

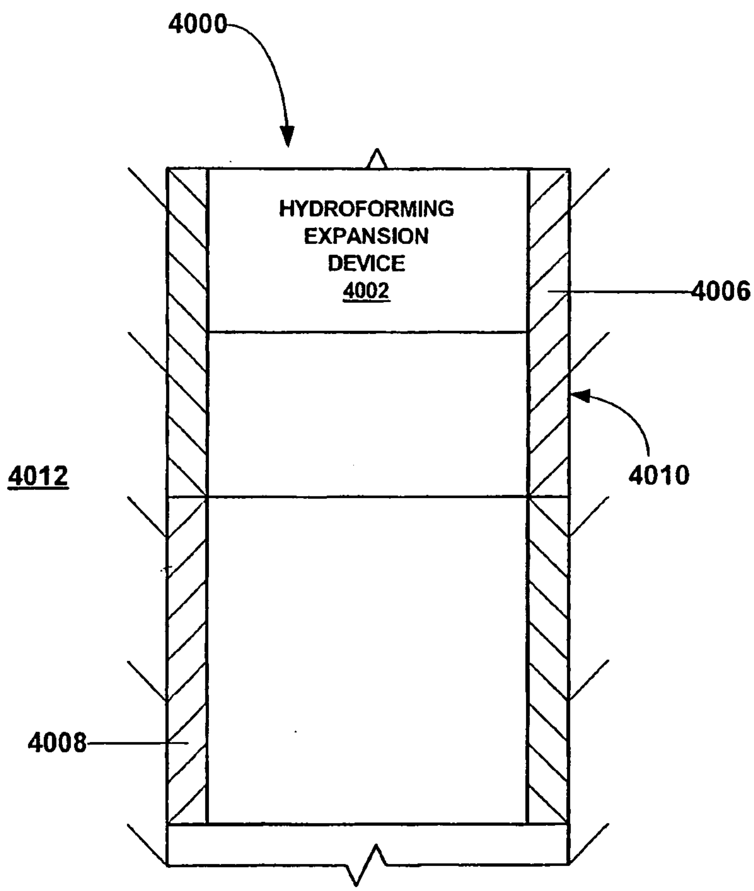
4000
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4002
4006
4010
4012
4008

FIG. 40g

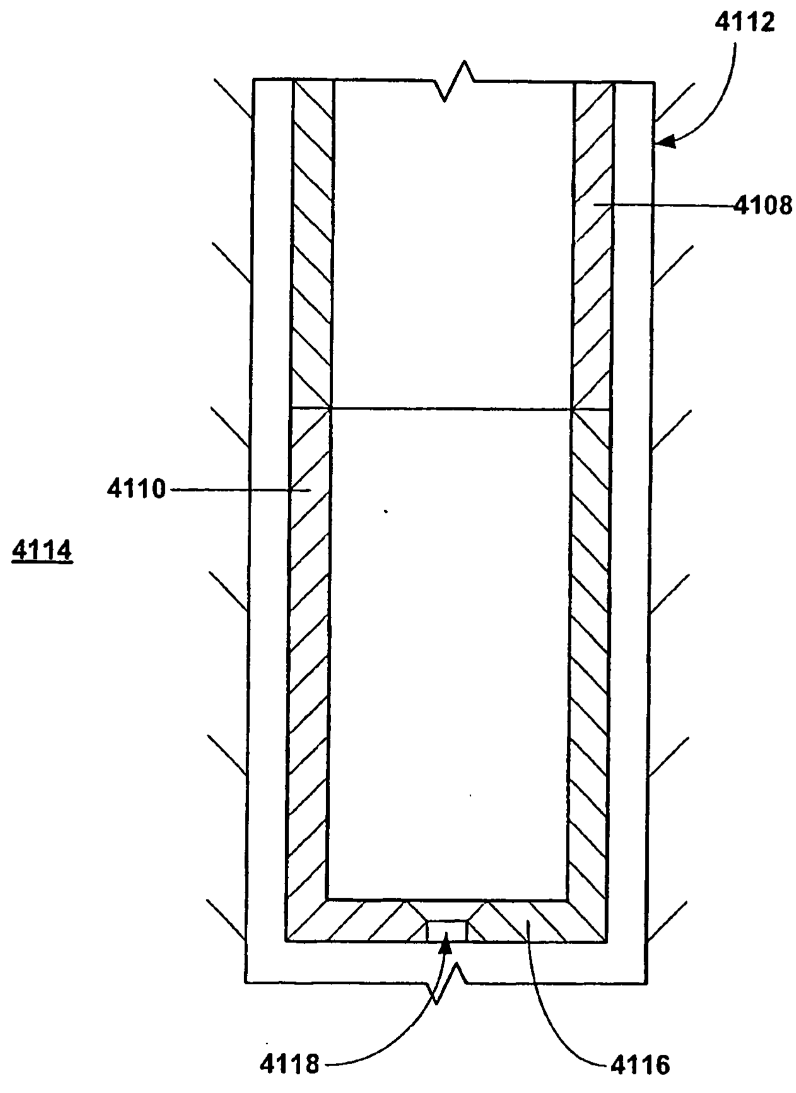

FIG. 41a

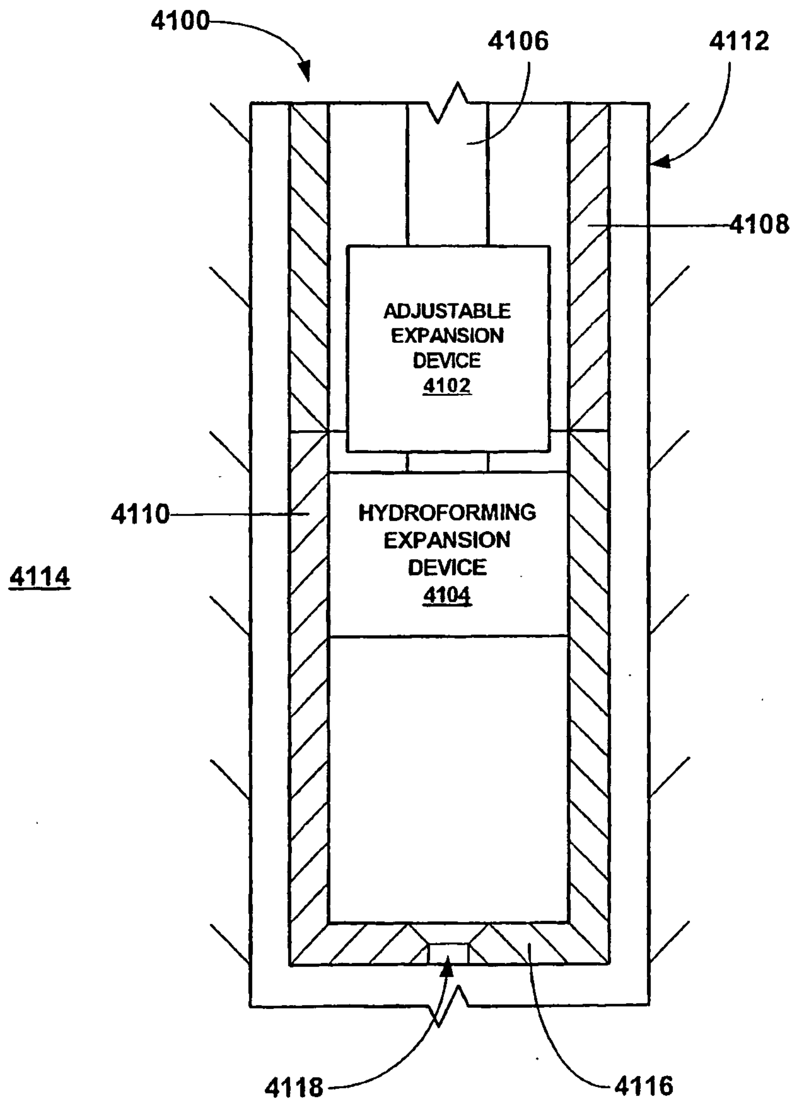
4100
4106
4112
4108
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4102
4110
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4104
4114
4118
4116

FIG. 41b

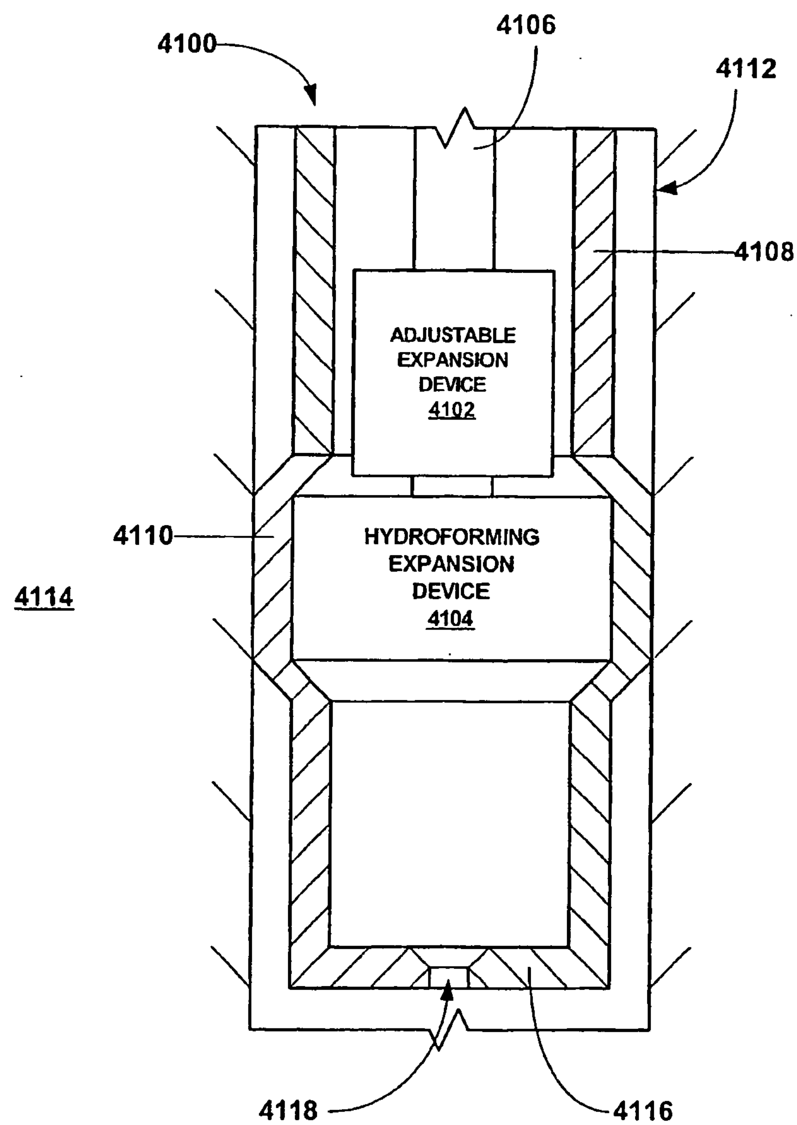
4100
4106
4112
4108
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4102
4110
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4104
4114
4118
4116

FIG. 41c

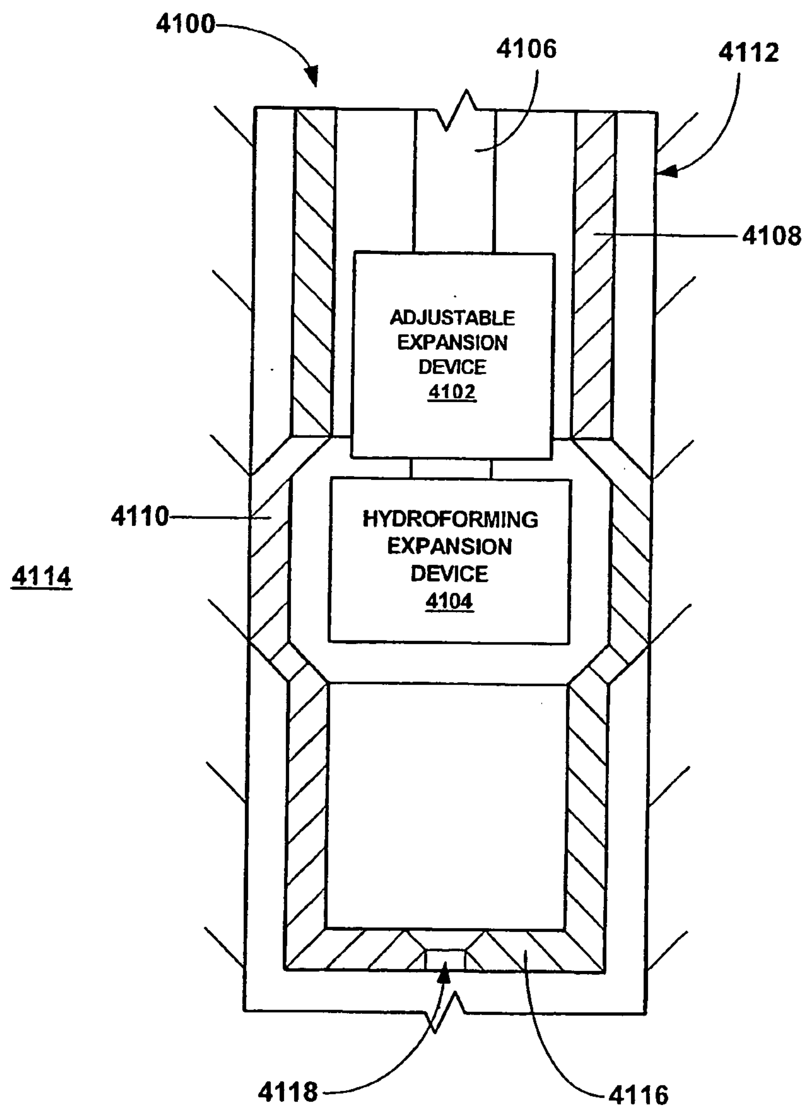
4100
4106
4112
4108
ADJUSTABLE EXPANSION DEVICE 4102
4110
HYDROFORMING EXPANSION DEVICE 4104
4114
4118
4116

FIG. 41d

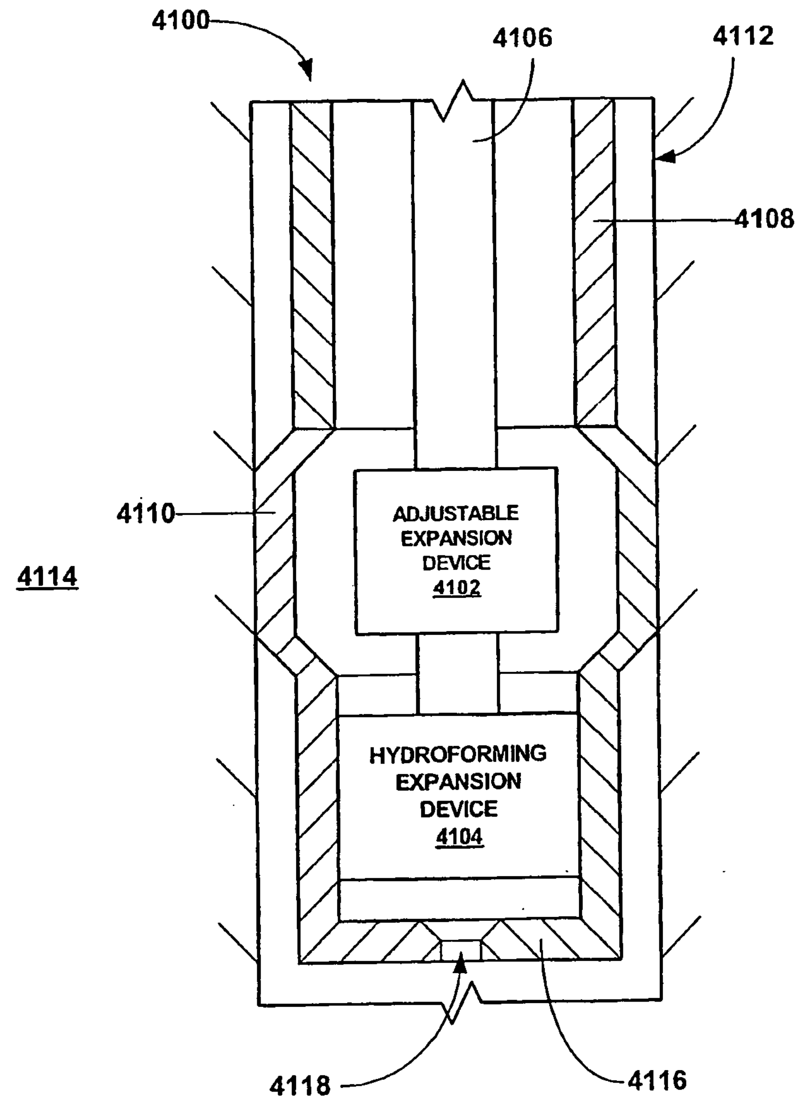
4100
4106
4112
4108
4110
ADJUSTABLE
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4102
4114
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4104
4118
4116

FIG. 41e

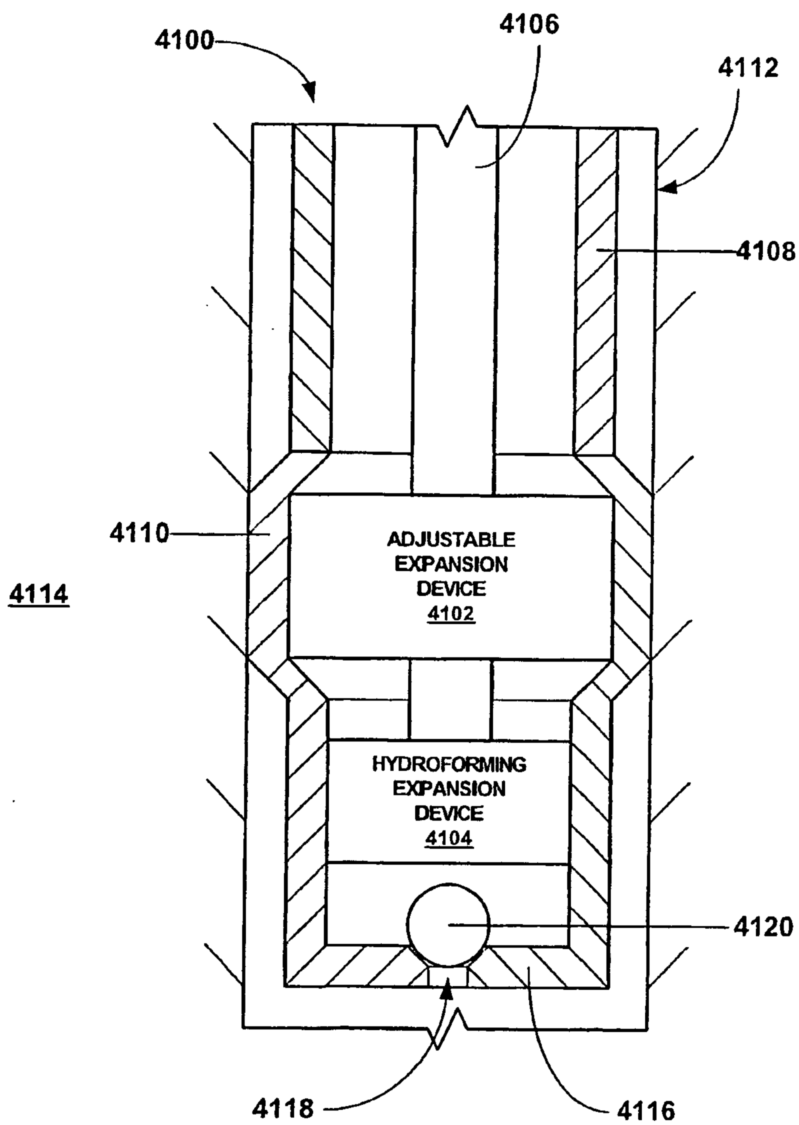
4100
4106
4112
4108
4110
ADJUSTABLE EXPANSION DEVICE 4102
4114
HYDROFORMING EXPANSION DEVICE 4104
4120
4118
4116

FIG. 41f

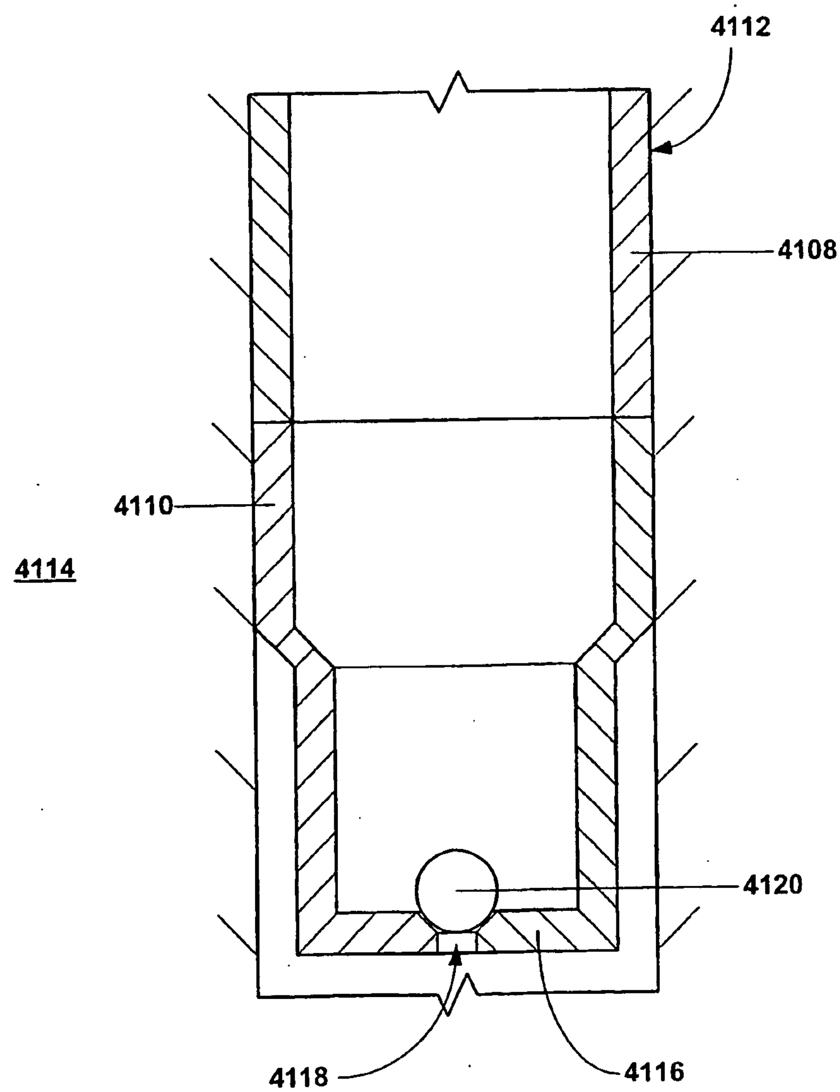

FIG. 41g

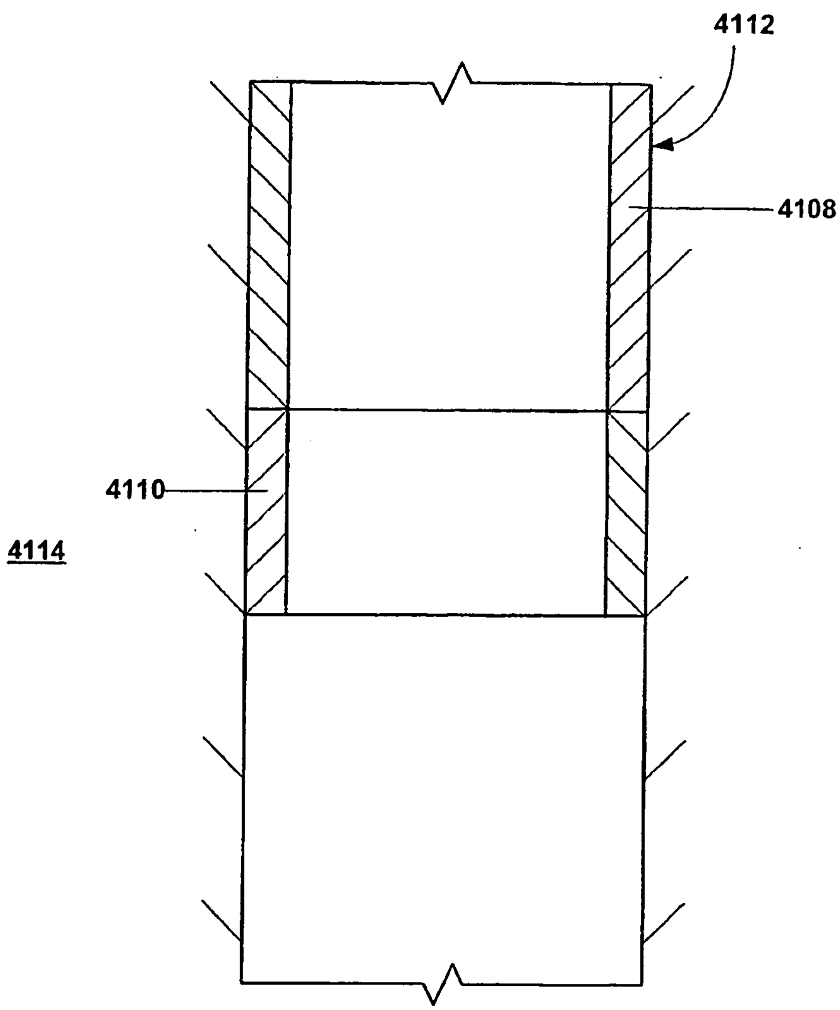

FIG. 41h

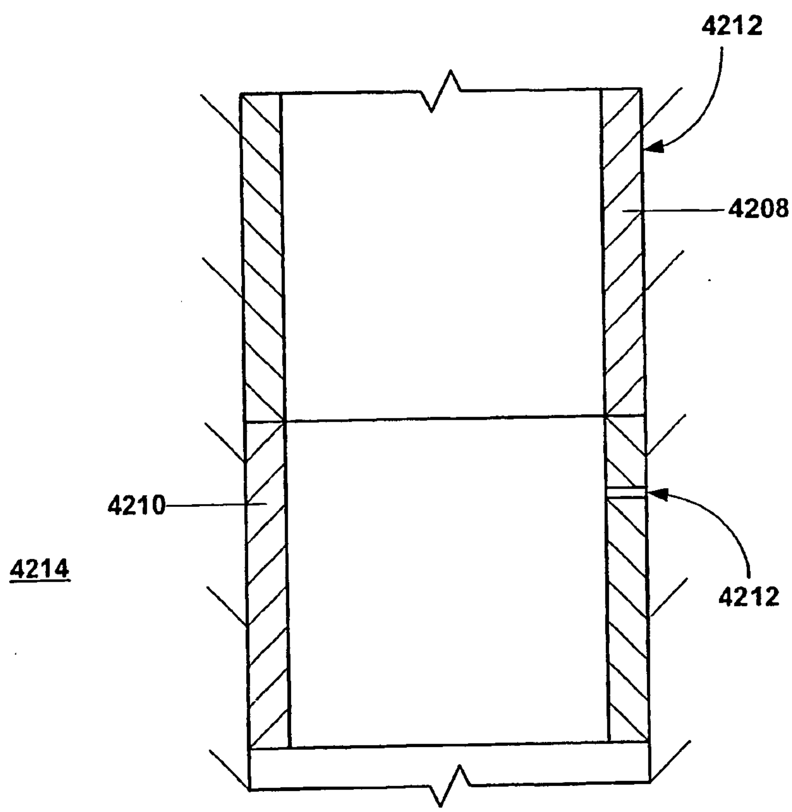

FIG. 42a

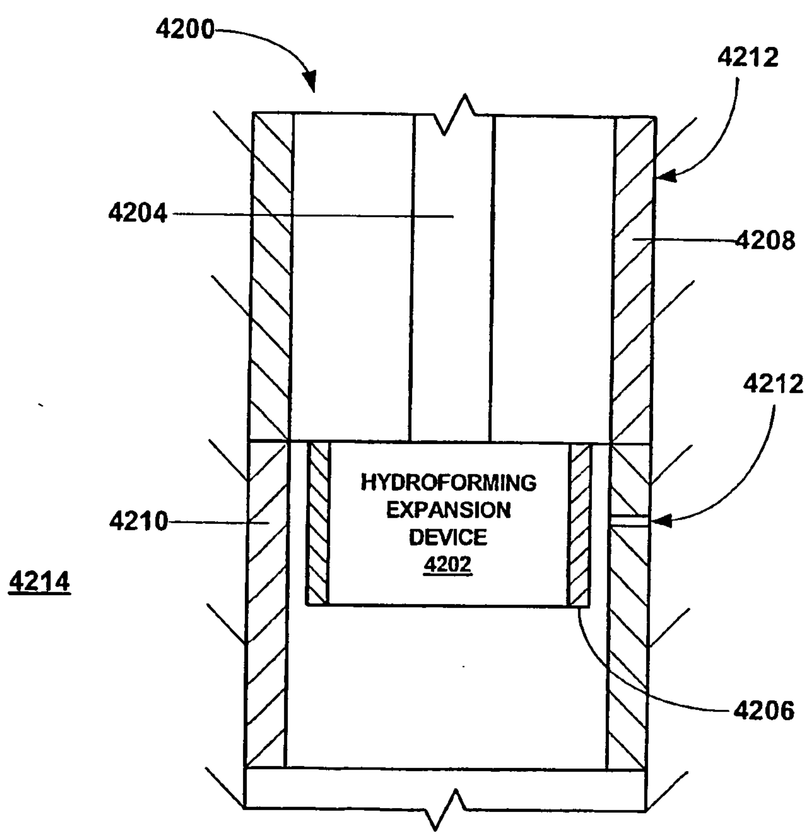
4200
4212
4204
4208
4212
HYDROFORMING EXPANSION DEVICE 4202
4210
4214
4206

FIG. 42b

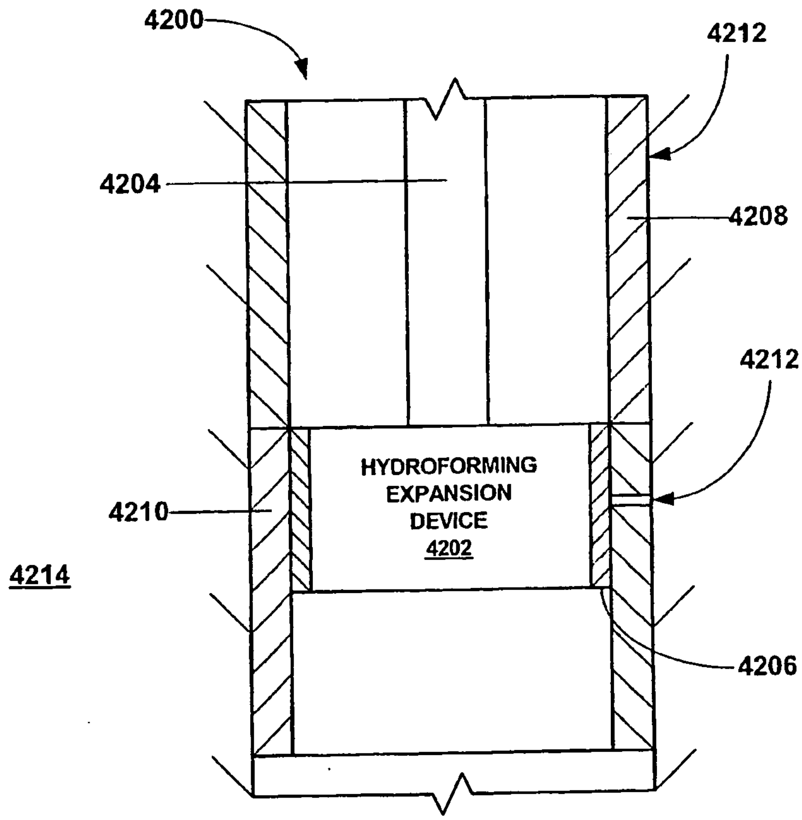
4200
4212
4204
4208
4212
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4202
4210
4214
4206

FIG. 42c

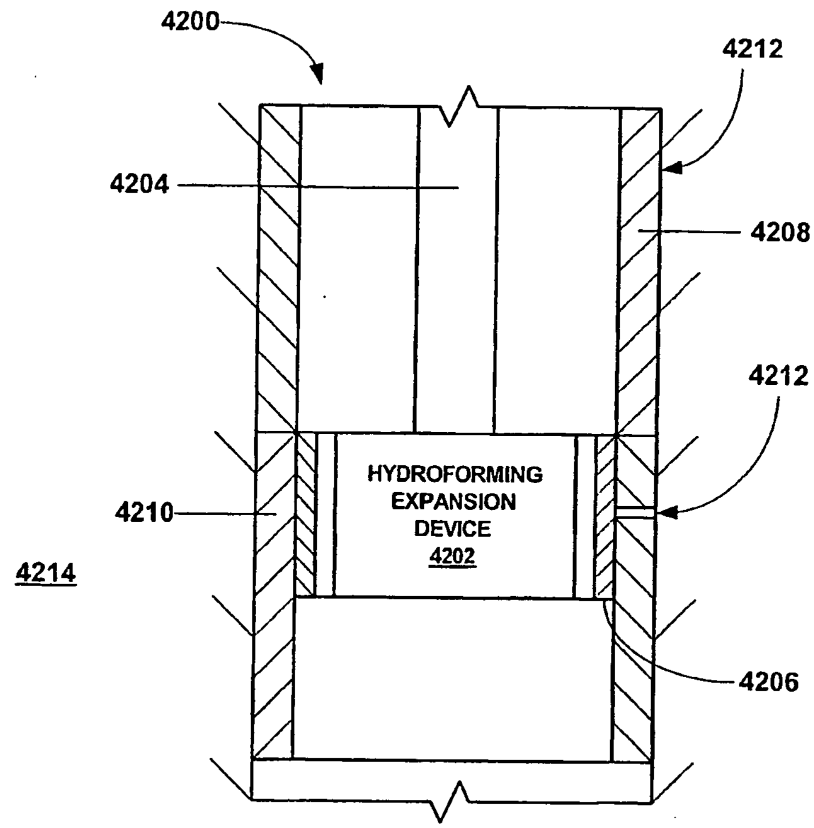
4200
4212
4204
4208
4212
HYDROFORMING
EXPANSION
DEVICE
4202
4210
4214
4206

FIG. 42d

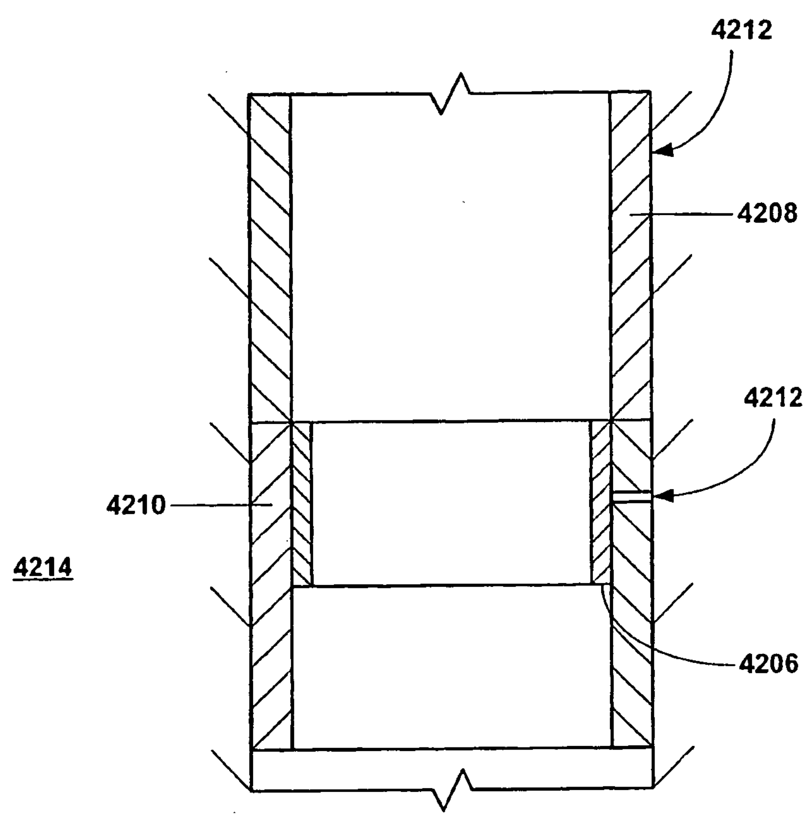

FIG. 42e

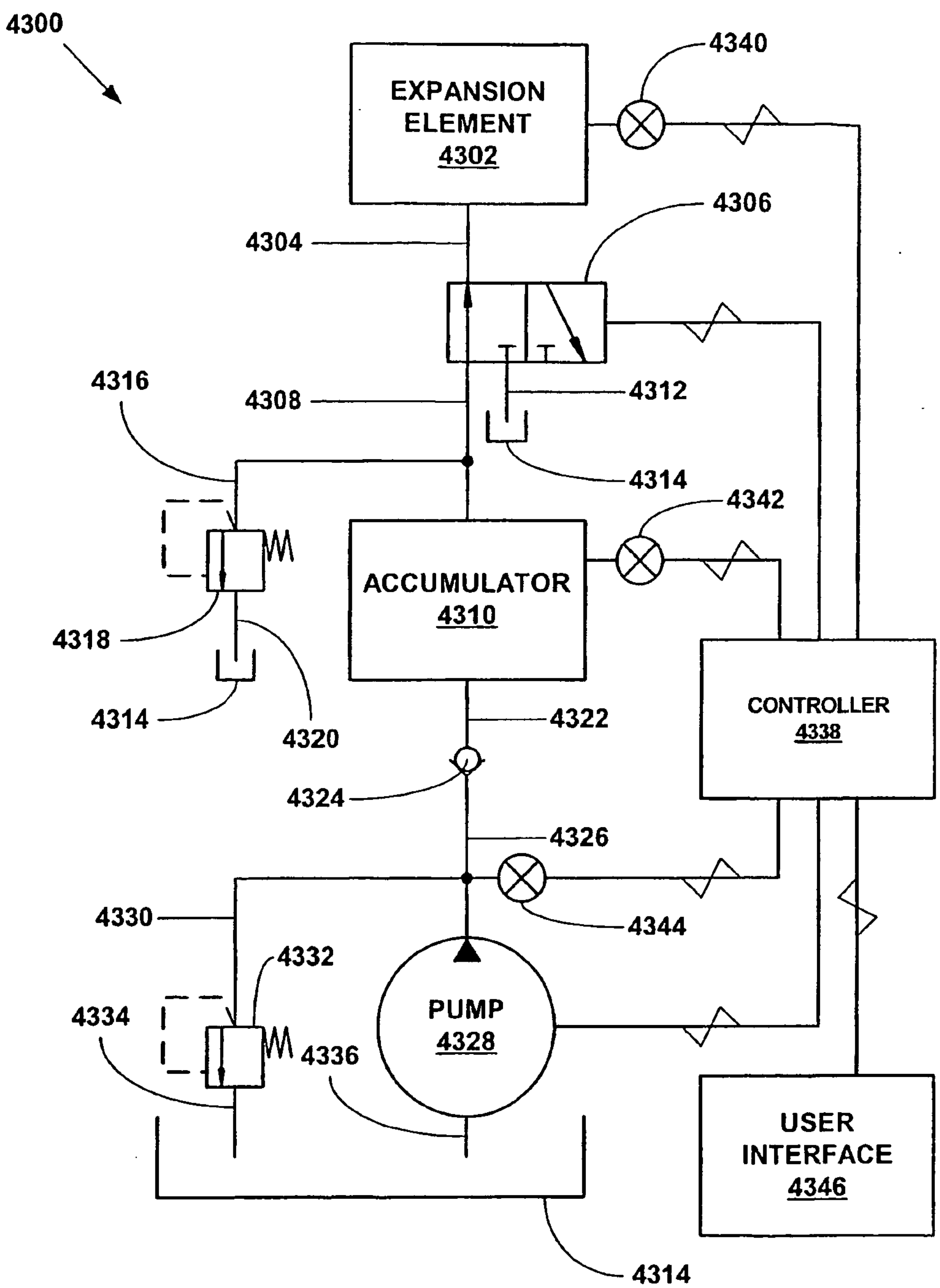
4300
EXPANSION ELEMENT 4302
4340
4304
4306
4308
4312
4316
4314
4342
ACCUMULATOR 4310
4318
4314
4320
CONTROLLER 4338
4322
4324
4326
4330
4344
4332
4334
PUMP 4328
4336
USER INTERFACE 4346
4314

FIG. 43

4400

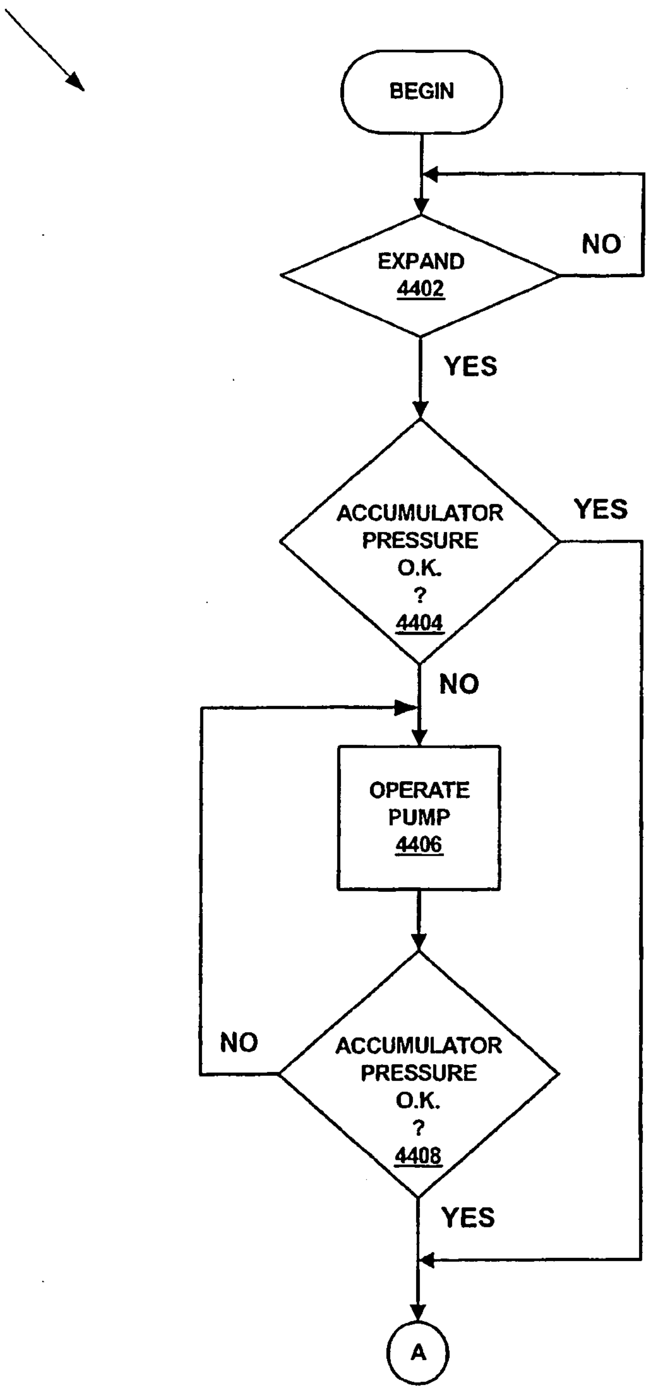
BEGIN
EXPAND
4402
NO
YES
ACCUMULATOR
PRESSURE
O.K.
?
4404
YES
NO
OPERATE
PUMP
4406
NO
ACCUMULATOR
PRESSURE
O.K.
?
4408
YES
A

FIG. 44a

4400

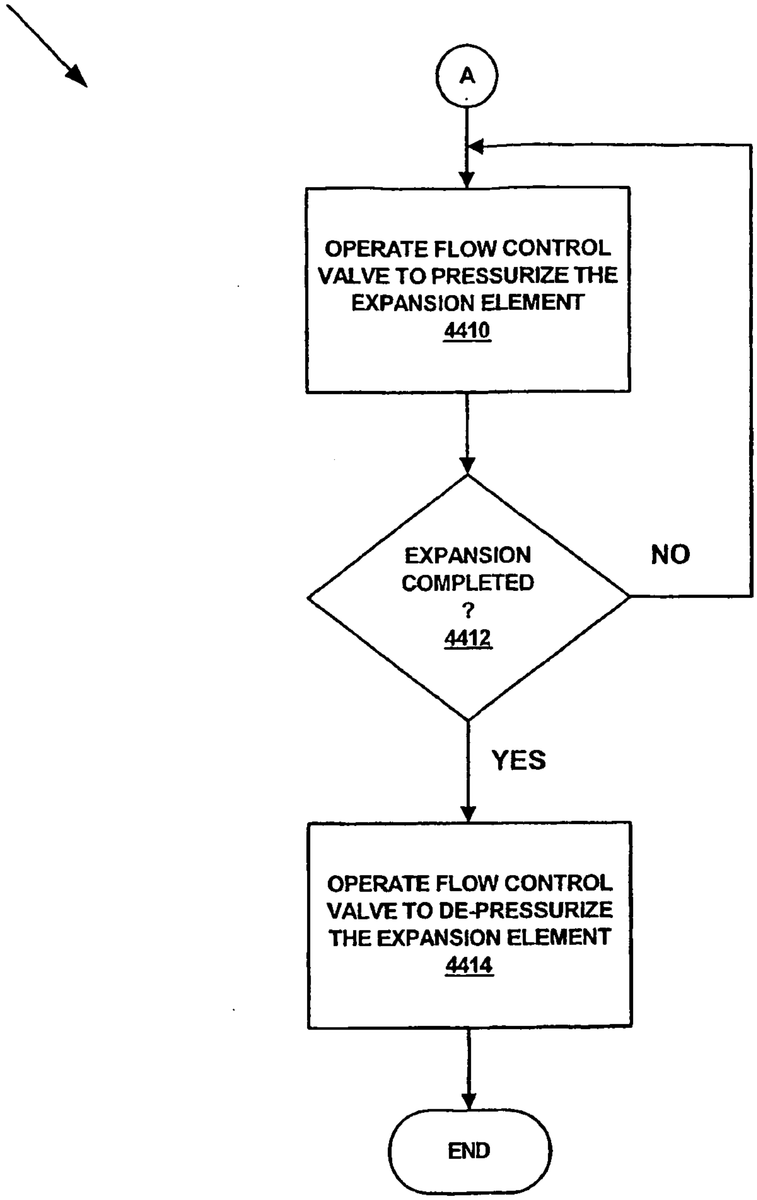
A
OPERATE FLOW CONTROL VALVE TO PRESSURIZE THE EXPANSION ELEMENT 4410
EXPANSION COMPLETED ? 4412
NO
YES
OPERATE FLOW CONTROL VALVE TO DE-PRESSURIZE THE EXPANSION ELEMENT 4414
END

FIG. 44b

PCT/US05/28451

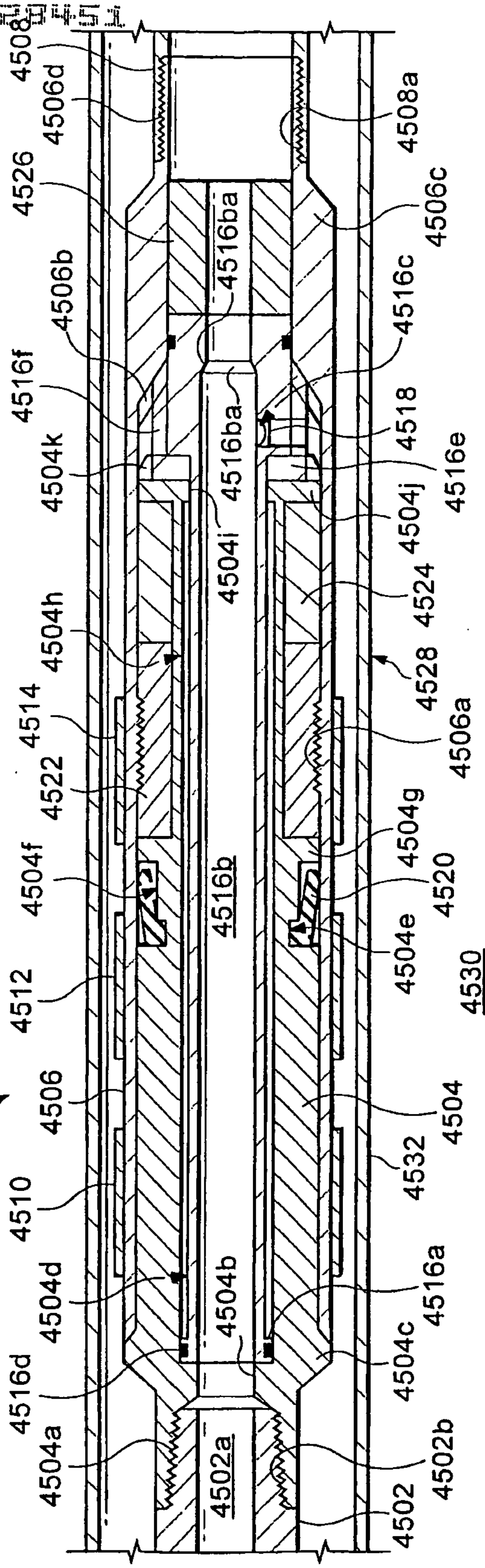

Fig. 45a

PCT/US05/28451

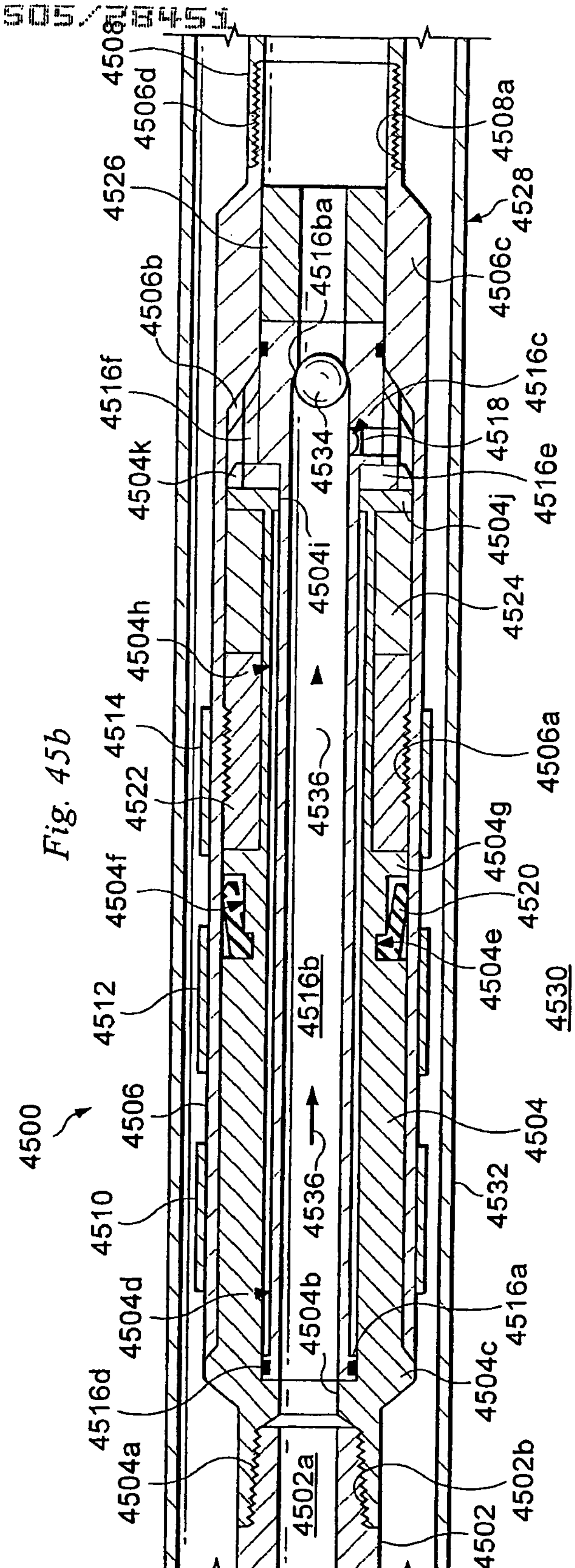

Fig. 45b

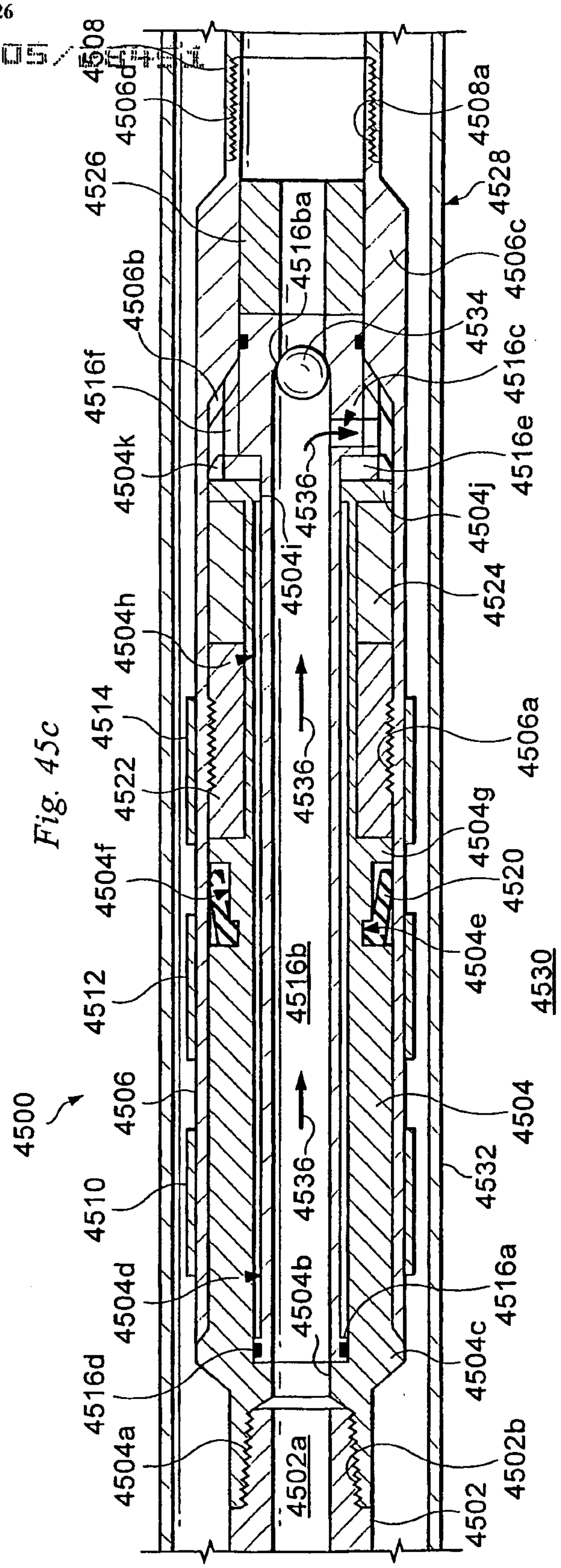
4500
4508
4506d
4508a
4526
4528
4516ba
4506c
4506b
4534
4516c
4516f
4516e
4504k
4536
4504j
4504i
4524
4504h
4514
4506a
4522
4504g
4520
4504f
4504e
4516b
4530
4512
4506
4504
4532
4510
4504d
4504b
4516a
4504c
4516d
4502a
4504a
4502b
4502

Fig. 45c

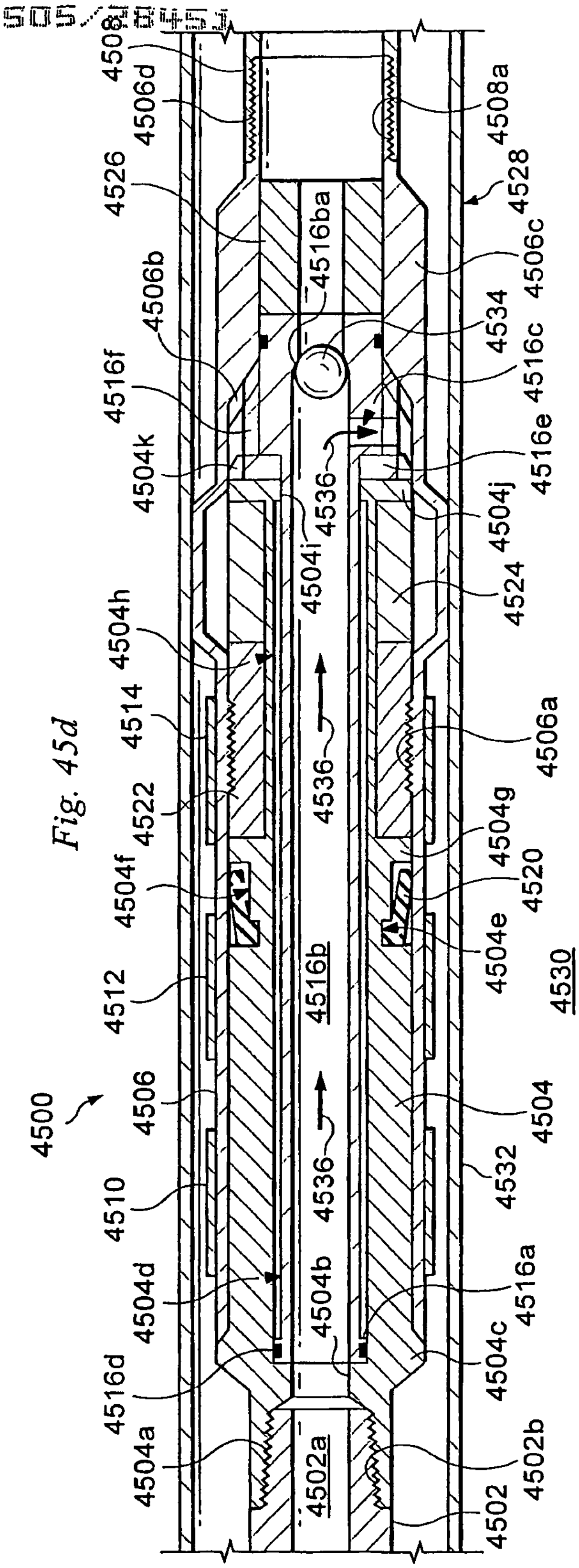
4500
4508
4506d
4526
4506b
4516f
4504k
4504h
4514
4522
4504f
4512
4506
4510
4504d
4516d
4504a
4516ba
4534
4536
4504i
4516b
4504b
4502a
4508a
4528
4506c
4516c
4516e
4504j
4524
4506a
4504g
4520
4504e
4530
4504
4532
4516a
4504c
4502b
4502

Fig. 45d

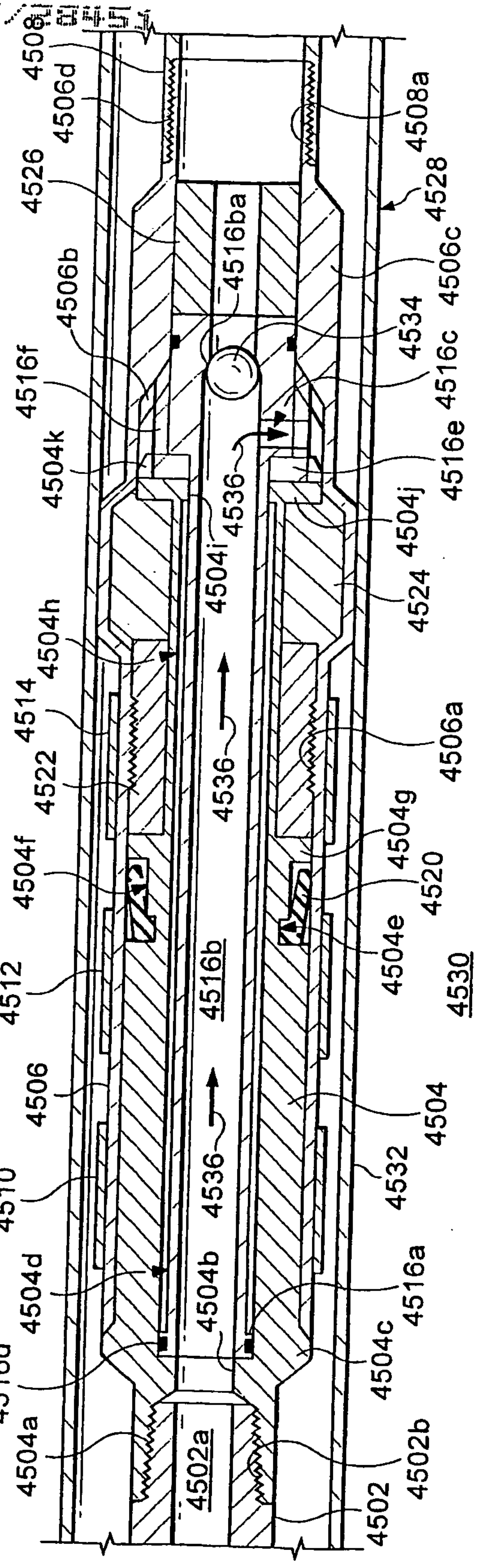
4500
4508
4506d
4508a
4526
4528
4516ba
4506c
4506b
4534
4516f
4516c
4516e
4504k
4536
4504j
4504i
4524
4504h
4514
4536
4506a
4522
4504g
4504f
4520
4504e
4512
4516b
4530
4506
4504
4510
4536
4532
4504d
4504b
4516a
4504c
4516d
4502a
4504a
4502b
4502

Fig. 45e

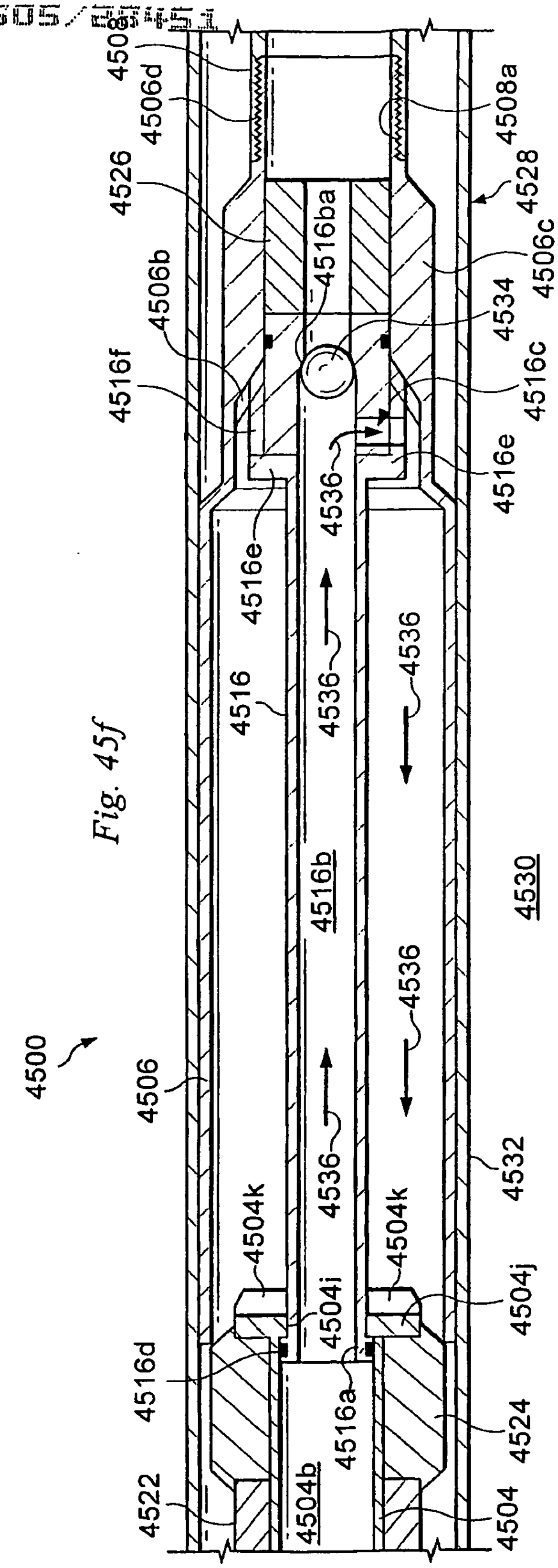
4500
4508
4506d
4508a
4526
4528
4516ba
4506c
4506b
4534
4516f
4516c
4516e
4536
4516
4516b
4530
4506
4532
4504k
4504i
4504j
4516d
4516a
4524
4522
4504b
4504

Fig. 45f

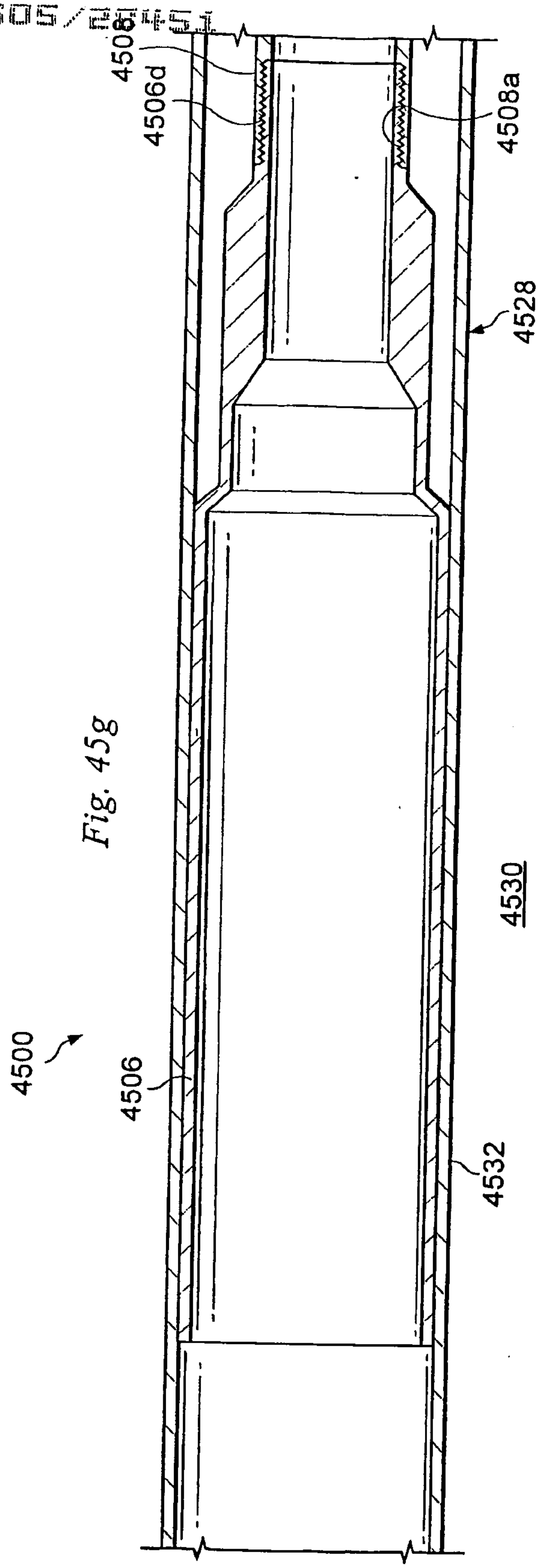

Fig. 45g

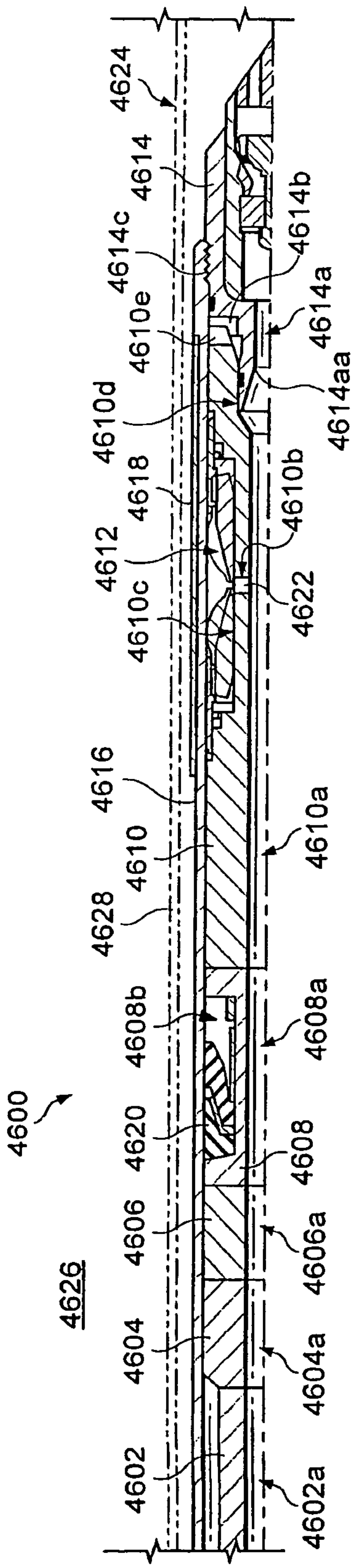

Fig. 46a

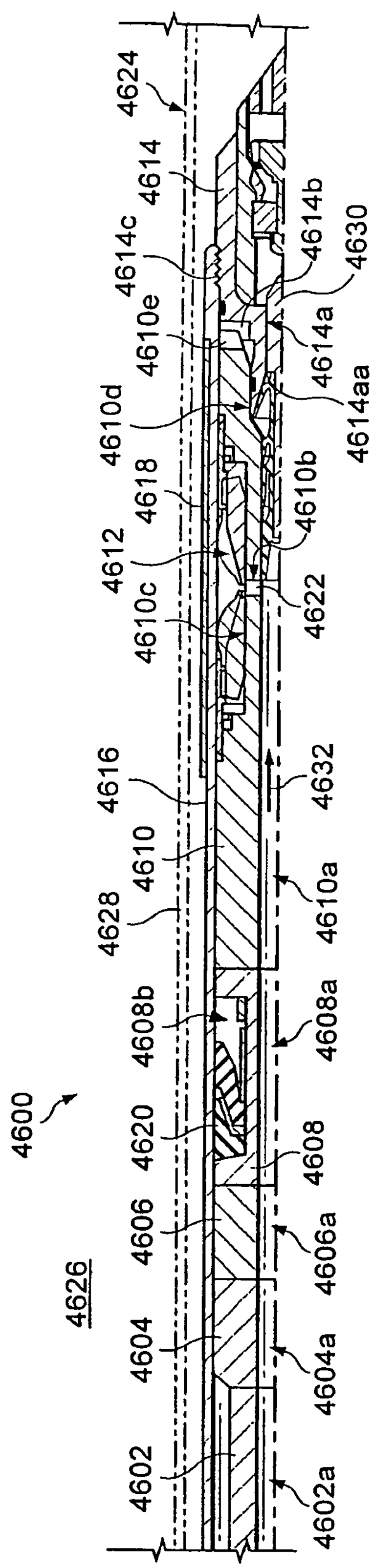

Fig. 46b

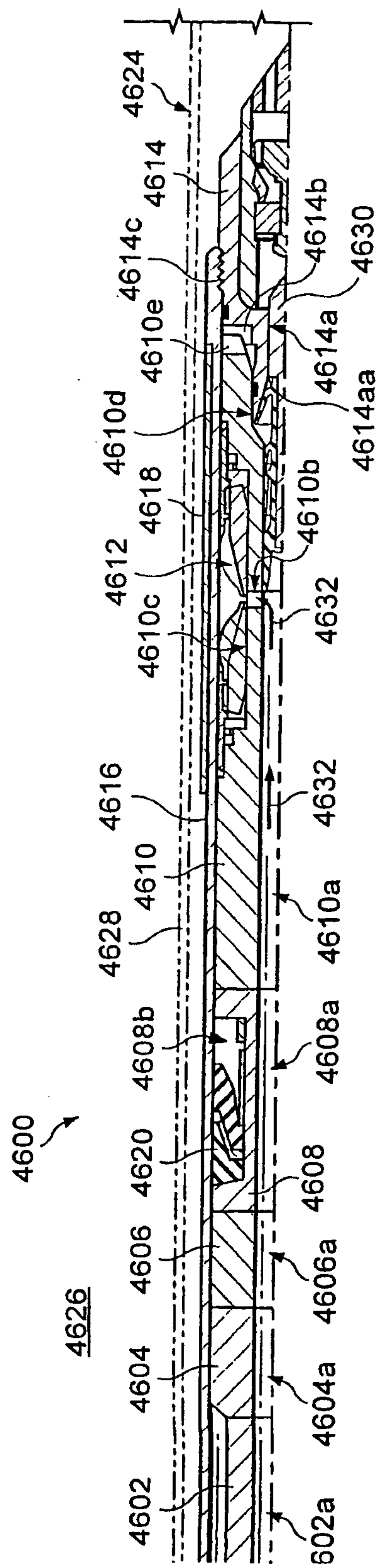

Fig. 46c

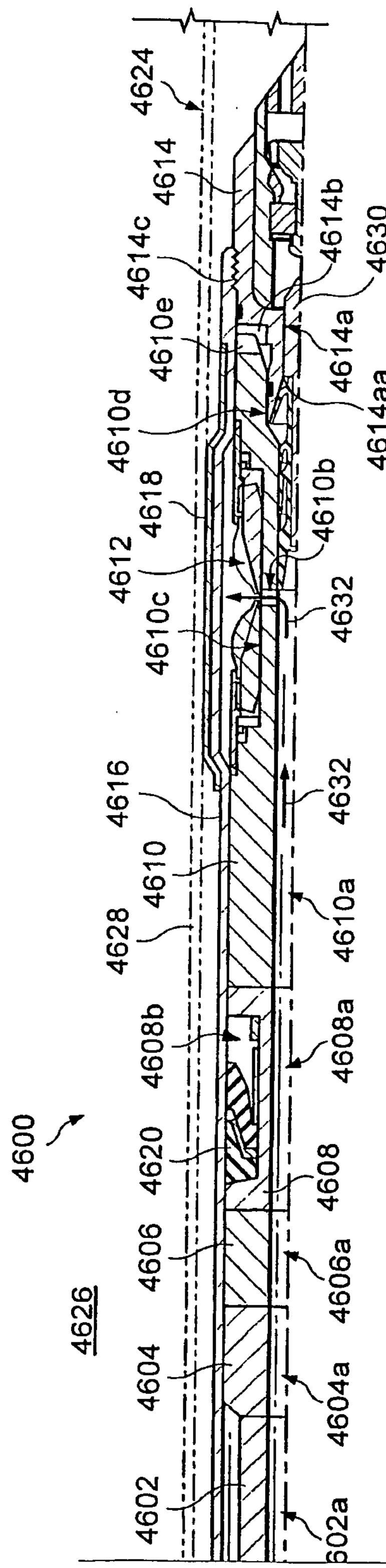

Fig. 46d

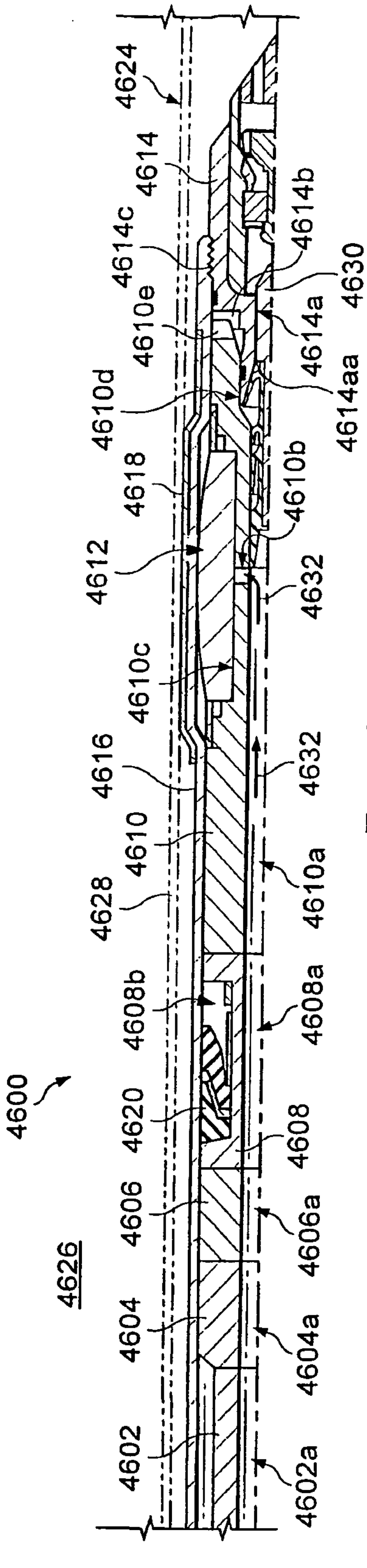

Fig. 46e

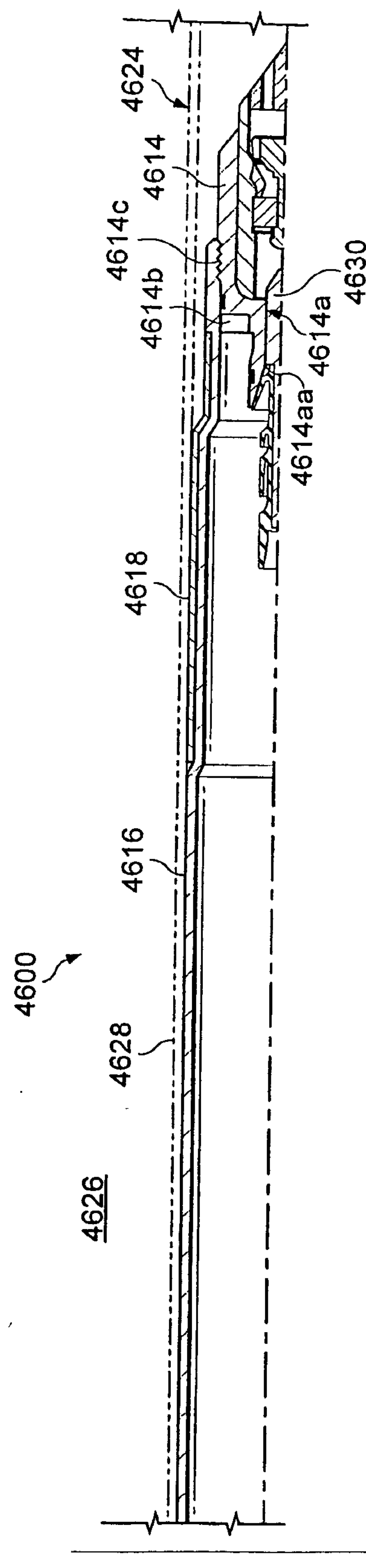

Fig. 46f

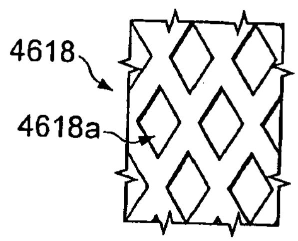

Fig. 46g

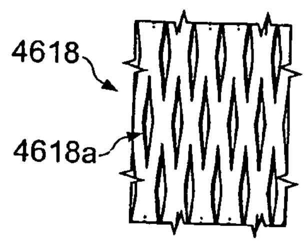

Fig. 46h

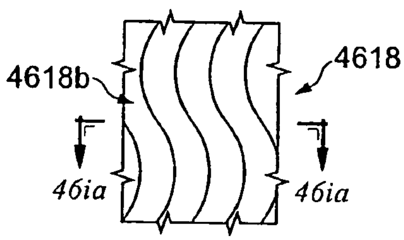

Fig. 46i

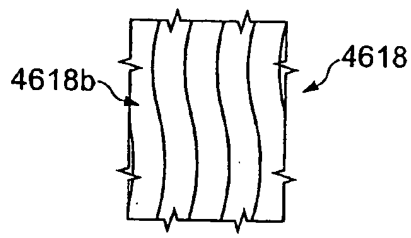

Fig. 46j

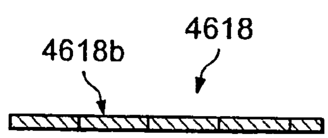

Fig. 46ia